

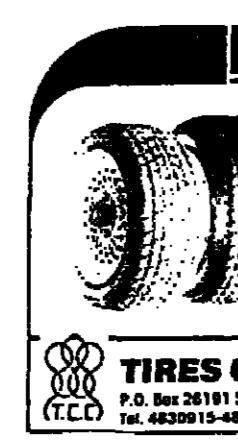
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# ARAB TIMES



MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1989/JAMADIL AWWAL 13, 1410 AH

20 PAGES 150 FILS

## Envoy discusses Lebanon in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Dec 10. (Agencies): Arab peacemakers held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad today before flying to Paris to pursue their quest for lasting peace in Lebanon.

The Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia and Algeria arrived in Iraq last night with Arab League envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim after holding talks with Syrian leaders in Damascus.

Iraq backs Lebanon's defiant Christian leader Michel Aoun while Syria supports the newly-elected Lebanese government of President Elias Hirawi, who has been rejected by Aoun.

An Arab diplomat said Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saad Al Faisal and his Algerian counterpart Ahmed Ghazali discussed with Saddam the Arab League's latest efforts to win a lasting peace in Lebanon.

No details of the talks were revealed.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who has more than 45,000 troops in Lebanon, was quoted by the Syrian news agency Sana yesterday as telling the mediators that force would probably be needed to oust Aoun.

**Force**  
France and the United States are among countries which have counselled against the use of force against Aoun and his 15,000-strong army in Lebanon's Christian enclave.

Prince Saad told reporters when he left Damascus that the Arab peace team wanted to remove any obstacles to the peace plan under which Hirawi was elected and help his government consolidate its authority.

Fighting erupted in Beirut today shortly after President Hirawi was quoted as saying that Syrian troops would leave parts of Lebanon as soon as he had overcome the resistance of Aoun.

The clashes involved Aoun's troops in the Christian enclave and Syrian-backed Muslim militiamen on the Green Line splitting the capital into Christian and Muslim sectors, security sources said.

The two sides battled with machineguns, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars, but there were no immediate reports of casualties, they said.

Hirawi told Ad-Diyar newspaper, based in Christian East Beirut, that there were several mediators between him and Aoun, but mediation efforts were going nowhere.

Hirawi said: "I was elected President to unite Lebanon and to extend the state's sovereignty. It will be done either peacefully or by the state's forces to suppress the rebellious."

He has threatened to oust Aoun by force but said only the Lebanese army would be used. Syria has offered to provide troops, if requested, for a military assault.

Hirawi, a Christian elected on Nov 24 two days after his predecessor was assassinated, acknowledged that an Arab-sponsored peace accord ratified by Parliament "did not satisfy the aspirations of any faction in Lebanon."

Hirawi told Ad-Diyar he wanted to include all militia commanders in his government, including Sami Geagea, leader of the 10,000-strong Christian Lebanese Forces (LF).

## Weather

CLOUDS will increase gradually with light to moderate south easterly wind. State of sea: Slight to moderate. High water: 11.30 am, 10.00 pm. Low water: 5.00 am, 4.00 pm. Sunrise: 6.32 am. Sunset: 4.50 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 21°C 70°F. Ahmadi: 20°C 68°F. Fuwair: 20°C 68°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 7°C 45°F. Ahmadi: 11°C 52°F. Fallaqa: 11°C 52°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 21°C 70°F. Ahmadi: 20°C 68°F. Fuwair: 20°C 68°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 35 per cent. Ahmadi: 65 per cent. Fallaqa: 74 per cent.

## Arab Times Special Report

# When love is lost...and life takes over

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff

AS the world gets smaller mixed marriages are becoming more common. But the merits of inter-marriages are being questioned as a greater number of reports of marital disputes reach the public.

Cultural and religious differences are often ignored by partners, or at best not taken seriously at the beginning. But when difficulties in marriage start arising these become the controlling factor in what happens to spouses and children during the divorce drama. This is why spouses whenever possible, choose their own country to seek a legal solution.

Partners in mixed marriages run into similar problems as other couples. Their marriages come under strain when there are family pressures, verbal and physical abuse, alcoholism, avarice or deepening of religious conviction by one of the partners. As spouses take opposing views of how to deal with these problems they move towards a final break-up.

### Hardship

Society tends to focus on the problems of parents and less on the psychological hardship of children. Although parents have distressing stories to tell and undoubtedly suffer, the only true victims in marriage break-ups

are children.

One of them is Mary a bright teenager who lives with her Arab father in the Gulf. Mary is looking for her British mother whom she does not remember. She was kidnapped by her grandfather and brought to the Gulf when she was one and a half years old. Her search so far has been futile. An innocent victim in an international tug-of-war, Mary is angry, hurt and confused. She is near bursting point as she cries:

## Editor's note

Two people meet. They fall in love, and perhaps against all odds, they marry. Suddenly the loving stops and a marriage 'made in heaven' turns quickly into the private hell of divorce.

It's a common story in every society. But when the couple are from different cultural and religious backgrounds, the pain of separation is often compounded by complex battles for child custody.

In a special report that will run in the Arab Times throughout the week, we try to shed some light on the men and women involved and the legal system that, in the end, try to put the pieces back together knowing that broken lives can never be made whole.

We have spoken with parents, legislators, psychologists and finally with real victims of — love gone wrong — the children. We hope that a fresh awareness of the issues involved in these situations will lead to better solutions to the problems that regrettably are likely to recur again and again.



The agony

"I want my mother."

Mary's cry is symbolic of the ordeal that children, the innocent and tragic victims of lost love, endure. Bombarded by conflicting messages from their parents and suffering from

emotional ambivalence these children live a nightmare," says Kuwaiti psychologist Dr Marwan S. Al Mutawa.

Locked in a conflict, the parents claim their custody battles are meant to ensure their

children's well-being. In fact, they inflict untold damage and pain on their offspring, said the psychologist.

A small army of people, social

(Continued on Page 15)

# Kashmir to free militants

Govt bows down to save minister's kidnapped daughter

SRINAGAR, Dec 10. (Agencies): The Kashmir government has agreed to release five detained militants in exchange for the freedom of the Indian interior minister's kidnapped daughter, a senior official said today.

The official, who declined to be identified, said intermediaries trying to free Rubia Sayeed, 23, had been told the government of the north Indian state would bow to the main demand of separatists who kidnapped her and free the militants.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said negotiations had reached a delicate and crucial stage.

One official said the militants wanted assurances that elite government commandos would not strike after the young woman was released. The government, meanwhile,

wanted guarantees she would be released unharmed and that they wouldn't attempt another kidnapping, the official said.

The kidnap drama is the first major test for the national government of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, sworn in a week ago. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, a Kashmiri and the first Muslim appointed to the powerful Home (Interior) Ministry, took up his job only on Tuesday.

The official told Reuters that once the offer was accepted negotiators would move on to discuss details of the swap.

But he added: "The trouble is that no responsible member of the militant organisation has come forward to deal with the offer."

Commandos surrounded the hideout of kidnappers holding Rubia Sayeed today, police sources said.

The state chief secretary Moosa Razu said India's new government hopes to resolve its first crisis without violence.

However, he added: "If necessary we will take other drastic actions."

Officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said talks were continuing with the militants, but a solution seems difficult because the kidnappers now are demanding that the government release seven of their jailed comrades in exchange for Rubia.

"If by Monday 7 pm (1330 GMT) our demands are not accepted, we will throw her body in the municipal limit of Srinagar," the kidnappers said in an Urdu-language statement to today's newspapers.

Earlier, they said they wanted five militants freed.

The abductors also have threatened to kidnap relatives of police officers if their friends are not released.

Officials said two local journalists and two paroled convicts intervened on behalf of the government and were negotiating with the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front.

The Kashmiri official said a problem in freeing the five was that one, Abdul Hamid Sheikh, was still ill in hospital after being shot by police in an encounter five weeks ago.

It was not clear whether Sheikh was fit to be moved, he said.

Police sources said a journalist and an influential Muslim leader, whom they would not identify, were acting as intermediaries.

A police spokesman admitted progress was slow.

"The JKLF has not so far authorised negotiations. They are just giving press notes to news agencies. Nobody from their side has come forward openly to talk to the government," he said.

Pakistan-based JKLF leader Amanullah Khan appealed to his men not to carry out the threat "until we reach a conclusion and give them a clear directive."

Pakistan has appealed to the Kashmir Liberation Front to release the kidnapped daughter of Indian home minister on humanitarian grounds.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said today the appeal had been made on a request from the Indian government.

# 'I'll never let evil triumph'

Cory vows to punish culprits

BATANGAS CITY, Philippines, Dec 10. (AP): President Corazon Aquino, having survived the gravest challenge to her administration, vowed today never to "let evil triumph" against democracy.

Rebel soldiers yesterday surrendered their last stronghold at an air base at Cebu city, ending the sixth and bloodiest assault to oust Mrs. Aquino.

Air Force chief Maj. Gen. Jose de Leon said the rebel leader at the Macan air base, Brig. Gen. Jose Comendador, surrendered late Saturday to regional commander Brig. Gen. Renato Palma and was under investigation.

Mrs. Aquino today travelled by helicopter to Batangas City, 80 kms (50 miles) south of Manila, for the funeral of Maj. Daniel Atienza. Atienza's F-5 jet was shot down on Dec 1 during an air raid on rebel positions at the Sangley Point air-naval base, southwest of the capital.

Mrs. Aquino said: "I will continue to serve the Filipino people, and I will offer every moment of my life, and I shall never let evil triumph."

About 200 presidential security guards surrounded the gymnasium and snipers were stationed on the roofs of nearby buildings.

Mrs. Aquino told reporters later that about 3,000 of the 160,000-member armed forces had joined the mutiny.

"Only 2 per cent of the armed forces were against us but still we

wanted guarantees she would be released unharmed and that they wouldn't attempt another kidnapping, the official said.

The kidnap drama is the first major test for the national government of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, sworn in a week ago. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, a Kashmiri and the first Muslim appointed to the Home (Interior) Ministry, took up his job only on Tuesday.

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But he added: "The trouble is that no responsible member of the militant organisation has come forward to deal with the offer."

Commandos surrounded the hideout of kidnappers holding Rubia Sayeed today, police sources said.

The military said three brigadier generals and at least 12 middle-grade officers would be relieved of their duties for joining the coup attempt.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos told reporters today that civilians also were involved in the coup attempt but he refused to name them.

"There has always been a civilian advisory or civilian elements because of the matter of financial support, which gave the rebels easy access to media. The support coming from those that allowed their homes and offices to be used as hiding places or safe houses of the rebels made this more than just a military matter," he said.

He said they belonged to the 20th and 23rd infantry battalions based in Agusan Del Norte province. They arrived with weapons and ammunition.

Palma, the government's regional military chief, refused to give details of surrender terms, but said he would recommend no charges be brought against the rebel soldiers because he said they had fired no shots.

Florendo, chief of the military's civil relations service, said a total of 1,485 rebel troops, including 128 officers, had left at least 113 people dead and more than 58 wounded.

Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo, who gave the revised casualty figures in Manila today, also said the military suffered damages amounting to \$10 million pesos

case after previous coup attempts.

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He said "the biggest job of the government now is to consolidate and to make necessary reforms on the merits or the causes of the rebellion."

The Philippine daily Globe reported today that 40 officers assigned to the army's 4th division resigned their commissions to show solidarity with the mutineers and to protest use of US F-4 Phantom jets to fly air cover for loyal forces on the opening day of the coup attempt.

On Friday, more than 100,000 people gathered in Manila in a show of support for Mrs. Aquino.

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authorised negotiations. They are just giving press notes to news agencies. Nobody from their side has come forward openly to talk to the government," he said.

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Laureates receive awards in glittering ceremony

# Nobel peace prize tribute to Gandhi too

OSLO, Dec 10. (UPI): Norway's Nobel peace

prize committee said today its 1989 award to Tibet's Dalai Lama was a tribute to the man's advocacy of non-violence, social inequality there.

"People have occasionally wondered why Mahatma Gandhi was never awarded the Nobel peace prize," said Nobel committee chairman Egil Aarvik in his awarding speech to Tenzin Gyatso, Tibet's god king who lives in exile in India.

"The

# Manila starts manhunt

Rebels give Cory one last chance to 'shape up'

**MANILA**, Dec 10, (Agencies): Top military officials launched a massive manhunt today for renegade officers involved in the bloody coup attempt that almost toppled President Corazon Aquino while opposition leaders renewed their call for her resignation.

Leaders of the failed rebellion said they will give Aquino one last chance to "shape up" and carry out urgent reforms before they strike again.

In a chilling statement released to news agencies, the mutineers said they did not want to kill Aquino despite ample opportunity to do so and

claimed they were very pleased with what they described as a "decisive victory" in the coup attempt.

Frustrated by the escape of Army Col Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, the orchestrator of the rebellion that left 83 people dead and devastated the economy, armed forces Chief Gen. Renato de Villa also ordered a "one-on-one check of officers suspected of doubtful loyalty."

The crackdown followed the surrender yesterday of the last 400 rebel holdouts who had threatened to blow up 32 military aircraft at Mactan air base 350 miles (560 km) south of Manila.

## Imelda in California to examine documents

**HONOLULU**, Dec 10, (UPI): Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos left Honolulu to spend the weekend with her daughter in northern California and examine documents for her upcoming racketeering trial in New York.

Marcos left on northwest flight 82 Friday night and was to stay with her daughter, Irene Arapeta, in Woodside, California, about 30 miles (50 km) south of San Francisco.

"She will stay there for three or four days," Peayman said. "She plans to sit down with her lawyers to look at the different documents they have in their offices relating to the March trial in New York."

Imelda boarded the plane just a few hours after US Immigration authorities lifted a travel ban to allow the visit.

The trip marks only the second time Imelda has left Hawaii since she accompanied her deposed husband, Ferdinand, into exile in February 1986. She flew to New York for arrangement in October 1988.

The Marcoses, Saudi Arabian financier Admas Khoshoggi, and seven others were indicted in October 1988 in New York on federal racketeering charges accusing them of defrauding US Banks of \$165 million by refinancing US properties purchased with \$103 million plundered from the Philippine Treasury.

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**Mr. Mohammad Ali Ishaque**  
(Assistant Director)

on sad demise of his  
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*May God rest her soul in peace*

The surrender ended the nine-day insurrection, the worst of six against Aquino since she became President in February 1986.

With Aquino's popularity waning amid attacks of indecisiveness and corruption, even her staunchest supporters said she must demonstrate she is still capable of governing the country by swiftly punishing the mutinous officers and tackling the problems that fuelled their revolt.

The country is struggling with widespread rural poverty and a \$28 billion foreign debt. Complaints about lawlessness, a shortage of public transportation, a worsening electrical power situation that has caused massive blackouts, and a general breakdown in basic services have seriously eroded Aquino's performance record.

Much to the embarrassment of the military, Honasan, who also led the August 1987 coup, managed to escape during the five-day rebel takeover of the Makati financial centre when the mutineers occupied 22 highrises, trapping 10,000 tourists and residents. When loyalist troops recaptured the posh area and the 1,500 insurgents surrendered on Thursday, Honasan was not among them.

De Villa said Commodore Domingo Calajate, head of the armed forces logistics command, Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenida, a regional commander, and Navy Capt. Felicisimo Taringan were also among the high-ranking mutineers who evaded detection.

"We are working on a list of officers who are suspected of doubtful loyalty and will take action against these people," De Villa said.

While describing Aquino as "irrelevant," the rebel statement said they were prepared to give her administration a last chance. "Everyone from the President down to the lowliest clerk must shape up and address the fundamental problems of our people," it said.

"After our demonstration of strength in the past few days, the political leaders should change the way they manage the affairs of this country and heed the call of the professional soldier for far-reaching reforms," the statement said. The insurgents specifically complained about low pay and favouritism in promotions.

The rebel leaders also stressed the coup attempt was a military movement and denied "the myth that this effort was sponsored by politicians."

Senate minority leader Juan Ponce Enrile lashed out at Aquino for her "unpresidential" remarks linking him and Vice President Salvador Laurel to the rebellion.

"She should wake up, resign, and get out of office," said Enrile, former defence minister under the late president Ferdinand and Marcos who was toppled in the "people power" revolution that spiralled Aquino into the No. 1 office.

Enrile charged Aquino's administration "has lost its legitimacy to govern, having abdicated its sovereignty and independence by calling on military intervention by the United States to maintain itself in power."

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## Pan Am trail leads to Belgrade

**LONDON**, Dec 10, (Reuters): Scottish police have flown to Yugoslavia to trace a Palestinian they suspect of supplying explosives and detonators to the bombers of a Pan Am airliner, a British newspaper said today.

The Sunday Times said Mohib Goben, 46, was suspected of involvement in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie last December, in which 270 people were killed.

The paper said Goben was a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and nicknamed "the professor" because of his alleged bomb-making expertise. The PFLP-GC had denied any link with the bombing.

The report said two Scottish detectives flew to Belgrade last week to question friends and relatives of Goben. No Scottish police spokesman was available for comment on the report.

The Sunday Times said Goben was wanted by West German and Yugoslav police. It said he narrowly escaped capture three weeks before the bombing when police discovered a weapons cache including semtex plastic explosive in a raid on his home.

Lockerbie police are currently seeking to question another Palestinian, Mohamed Abu Talib, who is detained in Sweden pending the outcome of an unrelated trial for a series of bomb attacks.

## Iran to display rare carpet

**NICOSIA**, Dec 10, (Reuters): A rare Persian carpet which took 35 Iranian craftsmen four years to weave is being flown to Switzerland for exhibition, Iran's news agency IRNA said today.

IRNA received in Nicosia, said the main carpet, measuring 763 square metres (8,200 square feet) and weighing three tonnes, would be on show in Locarno next week.

The agency said the wool and silk carpet had not yet been valued, adding that Italy, Switzerland, and several Arab states had already offered to buy it.

## Pak judges' row

### Appeal pulled out

**ISLAMABAD**, Dec 10, (Kuna): The federal government of the Pakistan People's Party today withdrew its appeal from the Supreme Court seeking the court's opinion of the powers of the president to appoint judges of the superior courts of the country.

In its appeal to the Supreme Court the federal government had asked to decide whether the president, while appointing the judges of the Supreme Court and the four High Courts was bound to act on the advice of the prime minister.

Federal government was of the opinion that it was binding on the president to consult the prime minister on such appointments, but the Punjab provincial government, ruled by the opposition alliance, the Islamic Democratic Alliance, thought it otherwise — that the president was under no obligation to seek the advice of the prime minister.

Request for the withdrawal of the federal appeal came on the heels of an observation by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Mohammad Haleem. During the hearing of a petition on the question yesterday Haleem observed the advice of the prime minister to discharge his various functions including the appointment of superior judges.

Punjab government had won a favourable decision from the Lahore High Court when it went to the court defending the appointment of 11 judges to the Lahore High Court under a presidential notification. However, a practising lawyer of Lahore, appealed to the court challenging the notification. The federal government filed an appeal later in the Supreme Court.

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## WORLD AND PLACES

## Antiquity theft

## Gang arrested

RADNOR, Pennsylvania: Bill Cosby is the most successful entertainer in history and will be number one when people look back on television of the 1980s, in the opinion of the editors at TV Guide magazine.

The Cosby Show has been at or near the top of the ratings almost since its debut in 1984, according to the magazine's December 9 issue, and the show "has never depended on its ratings on ramshackle (off-colour) gags, violence and put-down stereotypes."

Besides Cosby, among the most-remembered television personalities of the 1980s will be Larry Hagman and Oprah Winfrey, the editors said.

Cosby's half-hour comedy show placed first among the top shows of the decade, which included

"Dallas," and "Dynasty," police

shows "Hill Street Blues" and

"Misses Vice," and "Nightline" and "Saturday Night Live." (AP)

PENSACOLA, Florida: Some 9-year-old adjustments had to be made when 9-year-old Ben Williamson entered his Pensacola High School's international baccalaureate programme after skipping four elementary grades.

His books were too heavy for the freshman to carry by himself, so the school lent him a second set to keep at home.

Ben is allowed to eat lunch in the honour programme office because he is afraid of some of his larger schoolmates and prefers playing checkers there with another student or chess with a retired math professor. (AP)

KEENE, New Hampshire: A thief apparently troubled by a guilty conscience returned \$4,500 to a bank after taking the money to buy Christmas gifts, police said.

Fleet Bank-New Hampshire reported this week that two bags containing the cash and cheques were missing.

The next day, the bank received a postage envelope in the mail containing the cash bags, the cash and a note saying the sender had found the bags outside the post office, opened them and decided to return them.

Police said the package was sent to a 19-year-old man, who was to have put the money in a night deposit box for his employer. The business had decided not to surcharge, police said. (AP)

BOSTON, Massachusetts: Wu'er Kaxi and Li La, exiled Chinese student leaders, accepted a \$30,000 human rights award but lamented that two of their allies in the spring uprising at Tiananmen Square were still in China.

Rock star Sting presented the 1989 Reebok human rights award to China's crushed student democracy movement, represented by Wu'er and Li during a ceremony Tuesday.

"It is very frightening to me that I live and my children live in a world where governments routinely discard basic human decency and violate human rights," Sting said at the presentation.

Wu'er sent a message to friends still in China, saying, "take care of yourselves when the cold of midnight hits you."

A videotape interview with another student leader, Chai Ling, was flashed on a screen.

"She was my best friend in Tiananmen Square," Li said. "Chai Ling was the heart of the democracy movement."

Organisers placed two empty chairs on the stage for Chai, whose name is on a wanted list and Wang Dan, a student leader now in jail. (AP)

RENO, Nevada: The editors of a Nevada cookbook claim it is down-home cooking, but some of the recipes come from the US White House — although the Bushes' Mexican mound is not exactly the haute cuisine one expects at state dinners.

The country cookbook by the Nevada Farm Bureau Women's Committee consists mainly of Nevadans' recipes dating from the 1880s, and includes instructions from an Indian chief on how to roast a groundhog.

But editor Chris Shuey solicited President George Bush, former president Ronald Reagan and their wives for some of their favourites to give the publication national flavour. (AP)

EVANSVILLE, Indiana: Waitress Tam Wolf often receives Indiana lottery tickets as tips, but it was never important until a week ago.

A customer dropped a ticket into the tips jar at the tavern where she works and Ms Wolf, 27, took a minute and scratched off the ticket to see if she won anything. Ms Wolf won \$10,000 on the ticket.

The customer who gave her the ticket took it well when Ms Wolf called him over from his pool game to show him the ticket. "His eyes got big and he just smiled and said he was glad I got it," she said.

Ms Wolf plans to pay off her bills, buy Christmas presents, save some and buy a few things for. (AP)

KHALKIS, Greece, Dec 10, (AP): Police yesterday arrested a gang of antiquity thieves, but said that two priceless Byzantine relics recovered had been badly damaged. One of the items was a crucifix that according to legend was made of wood from Christ's Cross.

The gang Wednesday stole an ornate gold chest, studded with precious stones and containing the Crucifix, from the megistis Lavras Monastery in the all-male monastic republic of Mount Athos.

A police spokesman said that the chest had been torn apart with pliers and the 65 precious stones imbedded in it — including diamonds, emeralds and rubies — has been smashed into smaller pieces.

He said also that the wooden cross had been cut into five parts with a knife.

"The relics are terrible damaged. We will repair them but it will take a long time," Said Brother Paul, a monk from a monastery near Khalikis, after assessing the damage.

His books were too heavy for the freshman to carry by himself, so the school lent him a second set to keep at home.

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EVANSVILLE, Indiana: Waitress Tam Wolf often receives Indiana lottery tickets as tips, but it was never important until a week ago.

A customer dropped a ticket into the tips jar at the tavern where she works and Ms Wolf, 27, took a minute and scratched off the ticket to see if she won anything. Ms Wolf won \$10,000 on the ticket.

The customer who gave her the ticket took it well when Ms Wolf called him over from his pool game to show him the ticket. "His eyes got big and he just smiled and said he was glad I got it," she said.

Ms Wolf plans to pay off her bills, buy Christmas presents, save some and buy a few things for. (AP)

Hartung dies

Leading German-born abstract painter Hans Hartung has died, aged 85, at his home in Antibes on the French Riviera on Thursday night. (Reuter wirephoto)

COGGON, Iowa: Your run-of-the-mill lounge lizard will still be roaming bars, but the Coggan city council intends to decide whether an under-sized alligator can frequent a tavern.

A hearing will be held next month to discuss whether Crooky the Alligator can be the mascot of Coggan's Covington, recently purchased by Crooky's best friend and feeder, Jim Schreier. (AP)

LONDON: The English national opera, hoping to dazzle the senses of its audiences, has added something new to the sights and sounds of its latest production — smells.

Opera bulls who run out for Serge Prokofiev's "The Love of Three Oranges" get a little scratch-and-sniff card with six different odours of varying degrees of pleasantness. (AP)

ST LOUIS, Missouri: Julio Iglesias is said to be near settlement with the security guard who claims the singer felled him with a karate blow in 1986.

A civil trial for damages was scheduled Monday in US district court here, but a lawyer for the guard asked that the trial be called off saying the case was close to settlement.

David Wells, a lawyer representing Iglesias, said the settlement was "in the works. But I don't see any reason that it won't be worked out." (AP)

## Killer's father abused family

MONTREAL, Dec 11 (UPI): The father of Marc Lepine, the man who gunned down 14 women in an anti-feminist rage, beat his wife and children and treated women like servants, divorce papers disclosed yesterday.

He said also that the wooden cross had been cut into five parts with a knife.

"He would speak of love and other things — and out of nowhere I'd get blows to my face," said the killer's mother, Monique Lepine, in testimony at a 1976 divorce hearing.

"I didn't know if I was supposed to be his wife or his servant," she testified.

Sometimes Lepine — then known as Gamal Ghari — would be beaten bloody, she said.

The father, Algerian-born Rachid Liane Ghari, "would resort to violence against me and the children for the least reason, to the point of sometimes making (the children's) noses bleed," Lepine's mother said.

"He would stop me from taking them in my arms and consoling them."

The couple separated when Lepine was 7. Lepine took his mother's maiden name when he turned 18.

In a related development, authorities believe a violent pay-television movie may have triggered Lepine's killing frenzy Wednesday evening.

The movie, "Commando Terror" (Terror Squad), starred Chuck Norris and depicted a group of military-garbed terrorists who broke into a school and killed students in their classrooms.

The movie aired two days before Lepine broke into the Ecole Polytechnique and killed and wounded 27 students before turning the gun on himself.

"Lepine loved war movies," said Jacques Duchesneau, Montreal's organized crime division chief. "These kinds of pictures give him a thrill."

Officially police have declined to give names of the 15 prominent women listed for assassination in Lepine's three-page suicide note, but sources indicate they include former status of women minister Monique Gagnon Tremblay and Monique Simard, vice president of the confederation of national trade unions. Others listed include sports journalist Danielle Rainville and television commentator Jeanne Bertrand.

"I'm in a state of shock," said Simard. "But I'm not sure what I can do." Others said they may seek police protection now that the names have surfaced.

"You can't discount the idea there may be some other nut who wants to carry out the rest of (Lepine's) mission," acknowledged Duchesneau.

As facts of the massacre begin to emerge, residents expressed anger that police delayed entering the building and male students did nothing more to stop the killer.

"What type of society do we have where a sniper kills women one at a time and nobody lifts a hand to stop him?" asked Jeanne Quassa, a polytechnique student.

"We waited for 20 minutes locked in the computer (room) on the second floor," said a student survivor who asked not to be identified. "After I heard 30 shots I realized, 'There are no police officers here.'

"Then we got out and none of the police had gone in," she said. "They were all standing crunched with their guns around the outside walls of the building."

Some complained that dozens of male students evacuated the building, ordered away by Lepine, while female students were being killed.

"If only two or three had tried to jump (Levine) the story might have been much different," said Quassa.

One man — a conservative member of parliament touring the building — attempted to jump from a two-story window when he heard the shots.

"There is a tremendous instinct for self-preservation which takes over," said Duchesneau.

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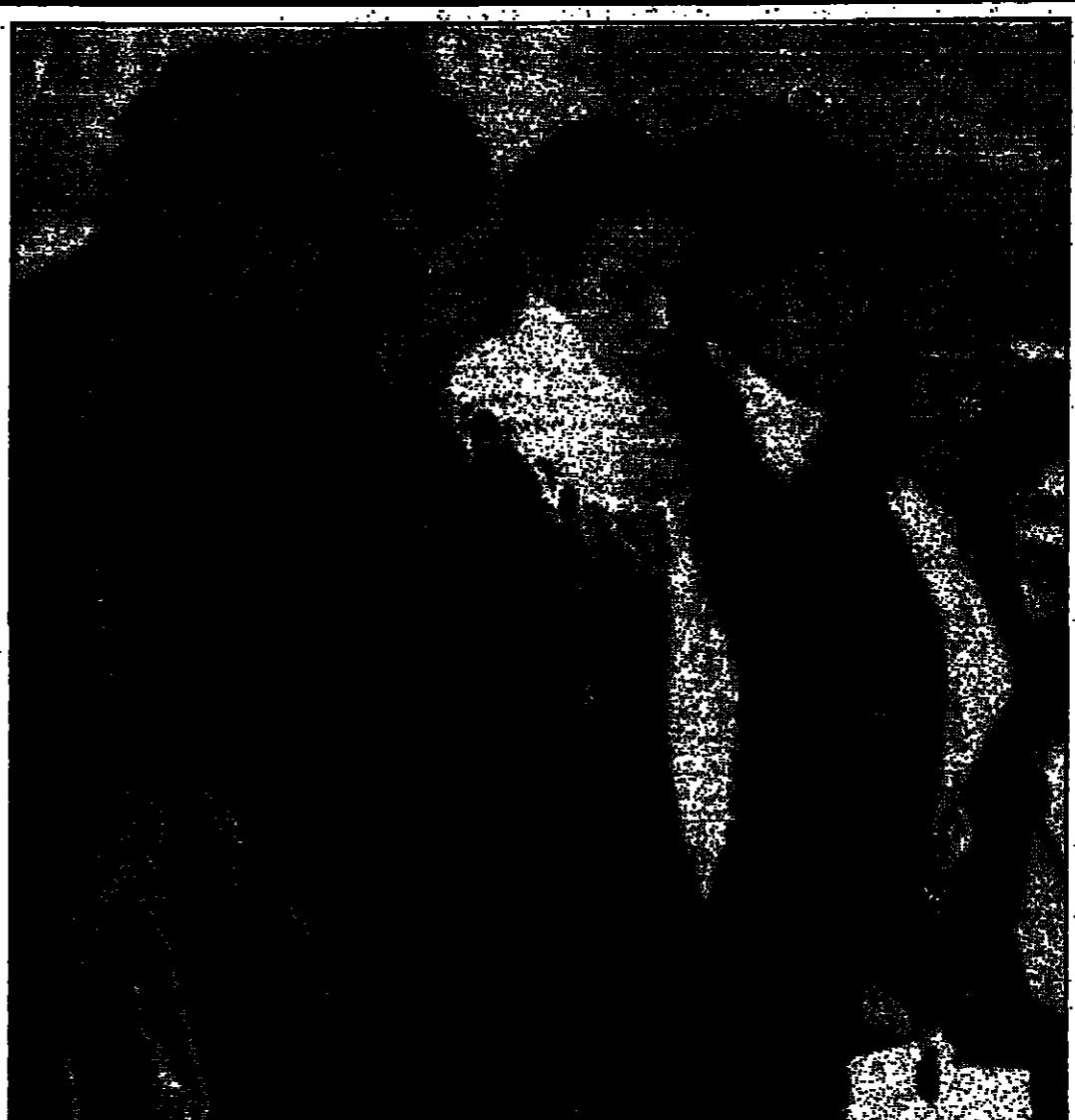
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COGGON, Iowa: Your run-of-the-



Relatives grieve

Grieving relatives come to view the caskets Dec 9 at the university where three days ago a gunman shot dead fourteen women in Canada's worst mass murder. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Experts suggest changes in lighting

## Eye fatigue link to VDT

NEW ORLEANS, Dec 10, (UPI): Eye-strain, blurred vision, headaches and other problems associated with using video display terminals can be eliminated in most cases by changes in office lighting and the display themselves, a professor said.

"People perform much better when they look at screens with dark characters on a white background instead of having white characters on a dark background," said James Sheedy, associate professor of the University of California school of optometry and director of the VDT eye clinic.

Sheedy, who addressed the 67th annual meeting of the American Academy of Optometry, said the change must be considered in the design of future VDTs.

Improved design of the terminals and workstations would help solve the growing problem of headaches, eye fatigue and other maladies associated in order of its sensitivity to national defence from "unclassified" to "confidential" to "secret" to "top secret."

Other recommendations included an in-depth analysis of the visual abilities individual workers and special designs for eyeglasses.

"Lighting in offices is often inappropriate for VDT users and causes glare because they are looking straight ahead in the room instead of up and down at their desks," Sheedy said.

Lighting levels should be reduced and lighting designs should be changed to provide indirect lighting.

## Quality... Secret of challenge

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## INTERNATIONAL

# Big two urged to contribute to Centam peace

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, Dec 10, (AP): Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, greeting his counterparts arriving for a Central American summit meeting, urged the United States and the Soviet Union to contribute to peace in the region and refrain from encouraging "military offensives."

Arias did not mention them by name yesterday, referring to the "superpowers in and out of the American con-

tinent that are two-faced, talking about political solutions while they encourage military offensives."

The Central American presidents during their two-day meeting are seeking an end to armed conflicts in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

"I do not see a solution to the political crisis. Only a miracle would produce an agreement," said a Central American diplomat who arranged the

meeting and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The inescapable topics of this meeting must be the explosive relations between Nicaragua and El Salvador and the threat to peace created by the insurgent forces in those countries," Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto said last week.

El Salvador suspended relations with Managua after it linked its neighbour

to a shipment of missiles to leftist guerrillas discovered two weeks ago.

The summit was moved from Managua to San Jose when Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani suspended diplomatic relations with Nicaragua over the missiles.

The meeting had been intended to evaluate progress toward peace since a meeting Aug 7 in Tela, Honduras.

That summit resulted in a surge of

optimism as Nicaragua agreed to hold elections, the Salvadorans agreed to talk with their leftist guerrilla opponents, and all five presidents agreed that US-supported Contra guerrillas should be demobilized by Dec 5.

But fighting has surged recently inside Nicaragua, and President Daniel Ortega declared an end to the 19-month ceasefire.

In El Salvador, Farabundo Marti

Liberation Front guerrillas launched their biggest attack on the war. In the midst of the fighting, six priests were killed and ten people died in the bombing of a union headquarters.

Arias said the offensive in El Salvador "eliminated whatever political space had opened there for the opposition ... there is a polarization there that will be very difficult to eliminate."

## Cartel agent sent to US

LOS ANGELES, Dec 10, (AP): A man accused of laundering more than \$1 billion for a Colombian cocaine cartel has been extradited from Uruguay to the United States, the FBI said yesterday.

Uruguayan national police turned Raul Silvio Vivas over to FBI agents at a naval base under heavy guard Friday and he was flown to Los Angeles that night, said Thomas Parker, assistant agent in charge of criminal investigations and organized crime activities in Los Angeles.

An alleged key member of the Medellin cartel, which is believed to supply a majority of the cocaine entering the United States, Vivas was a target of a Department of Justice investigation code-named Operation Polar Cap, which has been described as the biggest money-laundering probe in US history.

Vivas, 39-year-old native of Argentina, had been held in a Uruguayan jail since February. His extradition occurred just two days after a devastating terrorist bombing blamed on cocaine traffickers killed dozens and wounded hundreds outside Colombia's police intelligence headquarters.

A group of drug lords calling themselves "The Extraditables" has been waging a terror campaign of bombings and assassinations to force the Colombian government to end its war on the cartels and stop the extraditions.

Vivas was a "badly wanted" fugitive and his extradition "marks yet another turning point in the willingness of the international community, particularly in South America, to work with us in bringing to an end the tyranny and impunity of these drug empires," Parker said.

Operation Polar Cap led to the indictment of Vivas and 30 others in February. The probe allegedly uncovered a bogus gold shipping network dubbed "La Mina," the mine, that laundered about \$1.2 billion of drug money between 1987 and February 1989.

The charges against Vivas allege that he personally controlled the flow of over \$1 billion of drug money out of the United States to the Medellin drug cartel in Colombia, Parker said.

Edmundo Martinez Romero, a 35-year-old Colombian economist and reputed financial wizard behind the Medellin drug cartel, was sent to Atlanta on Sept 6 to face charges stemming from Polar Cap. He was the first person extradited since the Colombian government began its crackdown on drug traffickers.

## Producer held in sex abuse

NEW YORK, Dec 10, (UPI): Hollywood movie producer David Macleod was behind bars yesterday on charges he lured at least 10 boys to hotel rooms and paid them money for sexual favours, police said.

Authorities said David Macleod was arrested on Friday afternoon in the New York borough of Brooklyn after a three-month joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York City sexual exploitation of children task force.

Macleod, 45, has worked with actors like Warren Beatty on a number of movies, including the 1981 film "Reds" and 1987's "Istana." Macleod produced the 1987 movie "The Pink Up Artist."

Macleod was charged with 17 counts of endangering the welfare of children and criminal solicitation for actions that allegedly occurred in the borough of the Bronx, involving at least 10 boys, said officer Fred Weiner, a police spokesman.

He also could face charges in New Jersey, Weiner said.

Authorities said the suspect, carrying wads of cash, would prowl around inner-city housing projects in the Bronx and Brooklyn in search of boys.

He would flash thousands of dollars and promise boys new clothes and sneakers if they would accompany him, authorities said.

## Talks offered to Salvador rebels

### Attacks on civilians must stop

SAN SALVADOR, Dec 10, (Reuters): Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, in his first peace offer since leftist guerrillas launched a major offensive last month, yesterday offered negotiations with the rebels if they would agree to stop making attacks affecting civilians.

Softening his previous stance that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) must lay down its arms for serious talks to take place, Cristiani said he was not demanding that the rebels stop attacking military targets.

"The government is ready to restart the process of dialogue on condition that the FMLN announces publicly that it will stop all terrorist actions, especially those affecting the civilian population," he told a news conference.

### Killing of Salvador priests

## Military probed

SAN JOSE, Dec 10, (UPI): El Salvador's US-aided investigation into the brutal killing of six Jesuit priests last month is focusing "almost exclusively" on the military, Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said in Costa Rica yesterday.

"Right now, we are in an investigation almost exclusively within the armed forces," Cristiani said at a news conference after arriving in Costa Rica for the two-day summit of five Central American leaders Sunday and Monday.

"The FBI (US Federal Bureau of Investigation), which already has its people in San Salvador, as well as the Salvadoran investigative unit have begun the investigations within elements of the armed forces," Cristiani said.

It was the first time Cristiani has said military officers are the main suspects in the Nov 16 slaying of Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of El Salvador's Jesuit-run Central American University, five other Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter.

The eight were dragged from their home and gunned down by men in military uniforms in an area of the capital under control of government troops.

The Catholic church, the Jesuit order and other groups who have carried out independent investigations have said there is conclusive evidence suggesting the military or a paramilitary group carried out the pre-dawn murders which shocked the world with their brutality.

Cristiani said he could not predict how long the investigation would run or whether it would ever turn up the murderers, but promised a "100 per cent effort" to bring the killers to justice.



**Worthy ending**

Calling it a "worthy ending" to a tragedy, the son of Boris Pasternak on Saturday accepted his late father's Nobel prize, 31 years after Soviet authorities forced Pasternak to turn it down.

"Never, ever did I think this could happen," said Yevgeny Pasternak as he accepted the prize at a ceremony in Nobel hall in Stockholm.

Boris Pasternak, who died in 1960, was awarded the prize in 1958 for his novel "Doctor Zhivago" but was not allowed to accept it. A few days ago, the Soviet authorities granted his 56-year-old son permission to travel to Stockholm for the ceremony. (Reuters wirephoto)

### Chile goes to polls

## Pinochet rule nears end

SANTIAGO, Dec 10, (AP): After a remarkable peaceful campaign, Chileans on Thursday elect their leader and put an end to the long rule of Gen. Augusto Pinochet. But the military leader's legacy will not end easily.

The election, the first in Chile in 19 years, is seen as a comment on the Pinochet rule. Virtually all polls give the opposition a substantial lead, but even Pinochet's critics acknowledge some of the many profound changes wrought by the right-wing military president.

Three men are bidding to succeed Pinochet: Patricio Aylwin, a 71-year-old law professor and

former Senate president supported by a coalition of 17 moderate and leftist opposition parties; Hernan Buchi, 40, a former finance minister under Pinochet and Francisco Javier Errazuriz, 47, a wealthy conservative businessman.

Voters also will pick 38 senators and 120 house of deputies members. The balloting is decisive step in the country's long road back to democracy after more than 16 years under Pinochet's authoritarian, often harshly repressive regime.

A two-man presidential runoff will be held in January or February if no one wins more than 50 per cent of the vote. The

new government assumes power March 11.

Aylwin is given a commanding lead in virtually all pre-election surveys, and his two opponents have openly admitted they each hope only to win second place and hold Aylwin to under half the total vote.

Pre-election surveys give Aylwin from about 47 to about 57 per cent of the total vote. His principal threat comes from Buchi, who is shown in the polls with from about 27 to 37 per cent of the vote.

According to the polls, Errazuriz has only a remote chance of capturing more than about 15 per cent of the vote.

"The search for a vaccine is a long journey (this study) means we've completed the first leg of this journey," Hoth said in a telephone interview. "This is a breakthrough because it shows that a vaccine can protect against an AIDS-like infection in monkeys."

Hoth said the vaccine appeared to work on monkeys in laboratory conditions, but the transition to a vaccine that works on humans in less-than-ideal conditions will take years.

"If everything goes perfectly, five years is not an

unreasonable goal (for a human vaccine)," Hoth said.

That tallies with the estimate given by Dr Michael Murphy-Corb, who led the research team at Tulane University Medical Centre in Louisiana which performed the monkey AIDS experiment. The breakthrough was reported on Friday in Science magazine.

"We have laid a cornerstone for the foundation of an AIDS vaccine for humans," Murphy-Corb told Reuters before the study was published. Later, she said in a television interview that her personal goal was to have a human AIDS vaccine within five years.

The experimental vaccine, made from killed simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV), was found to prevent SIV infection in rhesus monkeys. SIV is related to the HIV virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome, but it infects only monkeys. Researchers commonly use SIV as a model for the AIDS virus, which kills its victims by destroying the body's ability to fight disease.

## Latam: hunger fact of daily life

MEXICO CITY, Dec 10, (Reuters): Democratic advances in the 1980s gave unprecedented freedom to millions of Latin Americans but failed to fill their empty bellies and frustrated many of their hopes.

No other region of the world has witnessed such a dramatic expansion of democracy in such a short time. Over the past 10 years 11 Latin American countries with a total population of more than 250 million switched from military rule to representative government.

By the end of this year the last of the old-style military dictators, Chile's Augusto Pinochet, will have begun to bow out after democratic elections on December 14 in which he cannot run.

In Paraguay, Alfredo Stroessner fell in a military coup in February after 35 years of iron-fisted rule. His successor, General Andres Rodriguez, made a promise of free elections.

Only Cuba and Panama were under authoritarian rule by the end of the decade. When it began, dictatorships were the rule rather than the exception.

**Groundswell**

But, despite such gains, there was a growing groundswell of frustration and disappointment with the fruits of democracy in the 1980s. Latin America's "lost decade" in economic terms.

There is more poverty, misery and hunger now than there were at the beginning of the decade. About 150 million Latin Americans — more than a third of the continent's population — live in poverty today, according to United Nations figures.

Throughout Latin America the buying power of the minimum wage has declined since 1980, with cuts of more than 50 per cent in some countries, including Peru and Mexico. Gross domestic product fell as

Such statistics translate into human misery on a huge scale. For the poor, hunger is a daily fact of life. Malnutrition kills millions of babies throughout Latin America, adequate medical care is often non-existent and social security the exception rather than the rule.

Latin America's worst economic crises in 50 years have prompted a string of warnings that unless there is material progress for the people, democracy may be doomed on a continent with a history of regular swings between representative government and authoritarian rule.

"Democracy winks in a climate of economic stagnation," Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said assuming office in 1988 after an election campaign that promised greater freedom.

**Tested**

"The virtues of democracy are being tested severely throughout Latin America," Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said in announcing in October that his country was joining the organization of American states.

That empty bellies can threaten the stability even of long-established democracies was driven home in Venezuela this year when more than 200 people died in riots sparked by price increases for bus fares and petrol.

The rises were part of an economic austerity package to repair Venezuela's economy and reduce its foreign debt, at \$32 billion the fourth largest in Latin America after Brazil, Mexico and Argentina.

Overall Latin America owes more than \$420 billion to banks and creditor countries. Repaying the debt takes up so much of the resources of many countries that there is nothing left for social programmes or investment that would spur employment.

"The benefits of democracy must, at times, seem few and far between to young people who face the prospect of a lifetime of work only to pay off interest on a debt owed to financial institutions in developed countries far away," Mulroney said.

Most Latin American analysts agree that a solution to the debt crisis is essential for economic improvement and, in turn, political stability in the young democracies of the region.

As pessimists see it, the pendulum may have swung to its highest democratic point by the end of the '80s before falling back.

In that scenario, Latin Americans disenchanted with the failure will turn to populists and leftist whose mismanagement will lead to turmoil and thus give the military or authoritarian leaders a pretext to "restore order" as they have so often done in the past.

Editorial: C.J. Tintori: 50





Hundreds of demonstrators shout slogans in Paris, accusing the European mercenaries of murdering Comoros president Ahmed Abdallah. (Reuter wirephoto)

## S. African awaits fate Woman on death row

CAPE TOWN, (Reuter): Crippled by arthritis, unable to read and alone except for the company of a warden, Evelina de Bruin waits on South Africa's death row to hear finally whether she will hang for murder by association.

Lawyers in Cape Town said last week it would be at least a year before the 56-year-old black grandmother hears from the appeal court in Bloemfontein whether she must die on the gallows.

Two psychologists have testified in court that De Bruin is failing apart under the strain of her isolation in Pretoria Central Prison, where at least 1,120 people have died on the gallows since 1980.

"Our mother believes she is going to die. She feels they can come to kill her at any time and that is no way for a human being to live," said her stepson, Welcome Madlongolwane.

"She is going through tremendous pain. She feels guilty about her young children, she feels sad and she has no one to talk to because she is the only woman on death row," he said.

De Bruin is a former domestic worker and the mother of 10 children. Madlongolwane said she was illiterate and partially crippled by arthritis in the hands and legs and by heart disease.

She and her husband, 63-year-old Gideon Madlongolwane, were among 25 people condemned in May for their part in the mob murder of black policeman Lucas Sethwala who was branded during anti-government riots in November 1983 as a collaborator.

More than 5,000 people have died in black political violence and clashes with police since a nation-wide uprising against white rule erupted in September 1984.

De Bruin and the others were convicted according to the "common purpose" doctrine, which holds that someone who identifies with the murderous intent of a group shares full responsibility for its actions.

"The judge specially found that Evelina de Bruin did not actually take part in the physical attack," defence lawyer Andy Durbach said in a memorandum given to Reuters.

But he accepted evidence that she threw stones at Sethwala's house and shouted encouragement to a crowd that killed him and burned his body.

"The court found that Evelina actively associated herself with the common purpose of the crowd to kill Sethwala and found her guilty of murder...as an accomplice," Durbach said.

The judge ruled there were no extenuating circumstances in her case and was therefore

obliged by South African law to sentence her to death.

Sandra Liebenberg, another of De Bruin's lawyers, said she appeared to be most deeply distressed by the court's verdict rather than by the prospect of execution.

"She is very religious and she has great difficulty with the fact that she has been branded a murderer while the court has acknowledged that she did not actively participate in the killing," she said.

Madlongolwane agreed, saying both his parents wrote in letters that they never knew the victim.

"I would not feel so bad if I had ever seen the man, but I am being condemned for killing someone I never knew," she told him in one letter dictated to a prison warden.

De Bruin has not seen her youngest children, Mbulelo, 14, and Adelaide, 11, since May because they are below the age limit of 16 for death row visitors.

The older children visit whenever they can find the fare for the 1,000 km (650 mile) trip to Pretoria, but Madlongolwane said he did not think anyone would visit her at Christmas.

"I am so worried about the welfare of my children that I have not been able to eat for the past week. I cannot sleep properly, I feel afraid and sad when I think of my children," De Bruin said in an unsuccessful bail application in October.

Madlongolwane said she was collapsing under the strain of separation from her children and of being branded a murderer.

De Bruin can get comfort from her Bible only when a prison warden takes time to read to her or to play her a recorded reading, he said.

Psychologist Lloyd Vogelman said after interviewing her in October that she was suffering deep depression "indicated by a feeling of sadness and habitual crying, poor appetite... feelings of worthlessness, agitation and restlessness."

Madlongolwane, a school teacher in Namibia, said he was most concerned about Mbulelo, who had become distrustful and aggressive since his parents were sentenced to death.

"He hates the sight of a policeman and if he sees anything that looks like a gun he wants to take it and go and rescue our mother," he said.

South African opponents of the death penalty have launched an international campaign to save De Bruin and the other 13 condemned for Sethwala's murder.

## Riot day rallies in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Dec 10, (AP): Thousands of Taiwanese rallied today to mark the 10th anniversary of an anti-government riots and demand the immediate release of dissidents involved in the 1979 incident.

Several opposition leaders made speeches during the gathering in the southern city of Kaohsiung, and some planned to walk along the route where the disturbances occurred, organisers said.

"The 1979 incident was a historical tragedy. Now that Taiwan has taken steps towards democracy, it is the best time for the government to face the reality and correct all the wrongdoings," said Huang Hsin-Chieh, chairman of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party. Huang had been jailed for seven years for organising the protests 10 years ago.

Huang also urged the Nationalist authorities to end political injustice and free two dissidents who are still in prison because of the riots.

On Dec. 10, 1979, thousands of dissident supporters, many carrying torches, gathered in Kaohsiung for the human rights day march organised by a dissident magazine to demand political reforms. The anti-government protest turned violent when club-wielding demonstrators clashed with riot police, who forcibly dispersed the crowd.



### Fast for rights

With prayers and meditation, relief workers began a 24-hour fast at sundown Saturday to appeal for the human rights of 300,000 Cambodians driven from their homes by war and revolution.

About 100 workers of at least seven nationalities gathered in their homes to fast and for special religious services on the eve of International Human Rights Day, organisers said.

"We think that all we are doing is making a hellhole a little bit more palatable. We are taking one day to think about that, about how to get the Cambodians back home," said organiser Corinne Bowmaker of the American refugee committee.

The night before, three people were wounded in firing in the same area, she said. Picture shows guerrillas tend two government troops wounded during a resistance attack on Svay Chek in north-western Cambodia. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Seoul deputy to quit politics in dishonour 'to save nation'

SEOUL, Dec 10, (AP): A lawmaker's willingness to resign in dishonour could help President Roh Tae-Woo resolve a prolonged political crisis officials said today.

Chung Ho-Yong, a senior member of the governing Democratic Justice Party, in a sudden reversal, announced yesterday that he would quit politics "to save the nation" if Roh asks him to do so.

The lawmaker's remarks were regarded as a major breakthrough in the current deadlock over charges of corruption, power abuse and

human rights violations under disgraced former president Chun Doo-Hwan.

Chung, who left office early last year after a seven-year term, was forced into rural exile late last year after publicly apologizing for misdeeds under his rule.

Chung's resignation from the National Assembly has been a key part of an opposition demand for resolving the controversy. The opposition also demands testimony by Chung on his alleged misrule.

## French prepare to 'intervene' Mayotte garrison reinforced

DZAOUDZI, Mayotte Island, Dec 10, (Reuter): French troops laboured in the tropical heat of this Indian Ocean territory today they prepared for possible military intervention on the neighbouring mercenary-held Comoros islands.

At least five Puma transport helicopters have been flown into Mayotte by air force and military sources said 300 paratroopers and commandos were being rushed in to reinforce the normal garrison of 250 French Foreign Legionnaires.

Three French warships were anchored at Mayotte island, which decided to remain French when the other three Comoros islands unilaterally declared independence in 1975, and military transport planes ferried in men and supplies.

Army vehicles bumped along the narrow roads of the capital Dzaoudzi ferrying supplies from the aerodrome to a newly established camp of khaki tents, put up to house the military and possibly civilian evacuees from the Comoros islands.

The dark brown Puma helicopters were parked nearby and French troops dressed in shorts sweated in the searing heat as they unloaded ammunition and other supplies.

The French Defence Ministry has ruled out an invasion of the Comoros to dislodge a group of about 30 white mercenaries who have held power since the assassination of President Ahmed Abdallah two weeks ago.

But it said yesterday that France was making contingency plans to evacuate 1,600 French passport holders from the volcanic islands northwest of Madagascar.

Despite official French denials of an invasion, diplomats in the capital of Moroni say France will probably be obliged to assume responsibility for security if the mercenaries depart.

This is because the much-hated presidential guard, now under the control of the mercenaries and as such the only effective security force in the now volatile country, would be leaderless.

There is also a possibility of clashes bet-

ween French troops and the mercenaries if the presidential guard tries to prevent the evacuation of French citizens.

Comoros interim president, said Mohamed Djohar, was to meet opposition leaders today to discuss the situation in the archipelago.

Diplomats, contacted by telephone from Mayotte, described Djohar as a virtual hostage to mercenary leader Bob Denard.

They said the situation there had been calm since anti-mercenary demonstrations on Thursday which were put down by heavily armed members of the Presidential Guard.

But they said the atmosphere was very tense and soldiers of the 500-strong Presidential Guard, now beefed up to 650 by the call-up of reservists, continued to patrol the capital.

The diplomat said Djohar was probably ordered to call today's meeting with opposition leaders by Denard to give an air of legitimacy to his government. "It is obviously an attempt by someone to try to further legitimise the situation," said one diplomat in a reference to Denard.

## Greece needs unity: ex-king

NEW YORK, Dec 10, (AP): Exiled Greek King Constantine II is prepared to return to his homeland in whatever capacity would promote unity, according to an interview published today.

Constantine, interviewed by the New York Times in London, said he was not pushing to make a comeback as king, but simply wanted, as a Greek patriot, to help end the country's political stalemate.

"The thing that worries me, as an individual and as a Greek, is the sense that all Greeks, whether they're living in the country, or abroad, are worried about what is actually happening," the Times quoted the king as saying in a rare interview.

"They have this desire to see Greece united, so that they don't stand still," he said.

After a series of inconclusive elections, an interim, all-party government was formed and early this month won a vote of confidence from the Greek parliament.

The Conservative, Socialist and Communist parties, which control 297 seats, agreed last month to form the joint government until new elections in April. National elections in June and November left no clear winner.

"A sense of unity and purpose is needed for our country to move into the new decade so that we can take part in all these very exciting things that are taking place — the single European market of 1992 and what's happening in Eastern Europe this year," Constantine said.

"The king said his efforts were developed in meetings with hundreds of thousands of Greeks over the last decade. He has talked to his countrymen in London and, most recently, in Puerto Rico in September to discuss Greece's bid to host the 1996 Olympics.

"The Greeks came there completely united," he told the Times. "They had representatives from all the political parties, including the technocrats, who were involved in the Athens bid to form a new government."

"I think that King's objective work, if it can be translated into other fields is splendid."

The king said he would use news outlets to take his call for unity to the Greek people at the end of the year.

Constantine fled Greece in 1967 after an aborted attempt to oust a military dictatorship that had come to power in that year.

With the fall of the junta in 1974 the people voted to abolish the monarchy. Constantine has visited Greece only once since then, in February 1981 for the funeral of his mother, Frederika.

## New US destroyer detectable

WASHINGTON, Dec 10, (AP): The US Navy's new \$1.2 billion Burke-class destroyer, hailed as the most advanced surface combat ship ever, could be detected by Soviet airborne radar despite the Defence Department's efforts to make the ship elusive on enemy radar, a lawmaker contended.

In a letter to a House of Representatives colleague, Democratic Congressman John Dingell also said that despite the navy's claims to the contrary, the service was forced to bail out the destroyer's manufacturer — Bath Iron Works Corp., of the US state of Maine.

The bail-out money, according to the Michigan Democrat, came from unspecified navy accounts, raising the question, he said, of whether a "slush fund" exists at the Defence Department.

"Clearly, I think the navy and the contractors are attempting to hoodwink both of us," Dingell said in a three-page letter to Democratic Congressman Charles E. Bennett, chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on seapower and strategic and critical materials.

The navy and the president of Bath Iron Works Corp., immediately disputed Dingell's claims, with the Bath executive questioning the appropriateness of the congressman's references to a classified issue such as naval radar capability.

"The new date is based on the US Air Force eastern test range's next available opportunity to support the Titan launch," said Ed Brown, president of Commercial Titan Inc., a subsidiary of rocket builder Martin Marietta Astronautics Group of Denver. (UPI)



### Out of Jungle

Flanked by a Thai Army officer, two Japanese Imperial Army soldiers, Shigeyuki Hashimoto, 72, (left) and Kyoaki Tanaka, 76, (right) arrive at a Thai Army camp in Pattani, Thailand, after spending more than 40 years in the jungle with the Communist

Party of Malaya (CPM). Thai and Malaysian authorities last week signed a peace agreement with CPM party chief ending a four-decade long guerrilla war. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Heseltine favourite

LONDON, Dec 10, (Kuna): The former defence secretary Michael Heseltine is the man most favoured by British voters to be a successor to Margaret Thatcher as Conservative Party leader, according to a new poll today.

Nearly one in seven, 13 per cent, said Heseltine as leader would make them inclined to support the Conservative at the next general election, in a Gallup survey published in the Sunday Telegraph.

Heseltine beat as potential rivals Deputy Premier, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the current party chairman, Kenneth Baker, and the former chairman Norman Tebbit.

Among Labour supporters, 15 per cent said they might back the Conservatives under Heseltine. His

rivals generally fared badly in the poll — 950 people were asked whom they would favour if Thatcher stepped down.

It was conducted during the Conservative leadership contest between Thatcher and Conservative MP, Sir Anthony Meyer, but before the result was declared.

A total of 14 per cent of all voters said they would be less likely to support the Conservatives with current party chairman Kenneth Baker in charge.

Heseltine said earlier that he would not challenge Thatcher for the leadership, implying he would submit himself only when there is a vacancy, observers noted.

Whites attack coloureds: A group of South African neo-Nazis on Saturday beat up a dozen coloured (mixed-race) people who were picnicking in a whites-only area in Boksburg, near Johannesburg.

The incident sparked clashes which police ended by firing tear-gas, witnesses said.

The violence erupted after members of the far-right Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) attacked about 12 people among 60 coloureds holding a barbecue in defiance of local government laws reserving the area for whites. (Reuters)

Junta lays down strict rules: The military government announced strict rules Saturday for the two political parties it created to contest elections and return Nigerians to civilian rule.

All former politicians already are banned from seeking office, but a new decree Saturday says they will be punished with six-month jail terms if they even try to join the two parties.

The decree also bars youth or women's wings in the parties on grounds they provide gangs of them to intimidate voters in past electoral campaigns. (AP)

Boat capsized in STORM: A fishing boat with eight people abroad capsized on Saturday off Newfoundland in a severe storm that earlier sank two ships in the Gulf of St Lawrence, leaving 39 sailors missing and feared dead, the Coast Guard said.

One body from the 60-foot (18 metre) fishing boat, the Johnny and Sisters, was recovered from the frigid North Atlantic waters off eastern Canada. There were no signs of survivors, the Coast Guard said.

Five ships and four aircraft — including two helicopters — were searching in poor weather conditions for the missing crew members, who were last seen about 125 miles (200 km) off Cape Race, Newfoundland, according to the Coast Guard. (Reuters)

Castro reaffirms stance: Cuban President Fidel Castro says his country will not become an "appendix of the Yankee empire" even though the demise of communist rule in Eastern Europe opens the way to what he calls global US domination.

Reaffirming his hardline stance against changes on the other side of the Atlantic, Castro said Cuba may be assigned the role of being among the last defenders of socialism.

Castro delivered the speech Thursday at a ceremony honouring more than 2,000 Cubans who have died carrying out revolutionary tasks overseas. A text was made available in the United States. (AP

# Opposition dominated cabinet in

## Husak quits; Havel may succeed as Czech president

PRAGUE, Dec 10, (Agencies): President Gustav Husak, the hardliner who helped suppress the 1968 "Prague Spring" reform movement, today swore in the first government not dominated by communists in 41 years. Then he resigned.

The coalition government is a victory for the nation's young but potent pro-democracy movement. It includes two men who were persecuted as dissidents until just several weeks ago.

The swearing-in ceremony,

Husak's last official act, culminated a peaceful revolution led by the nation's top dissident, playwright Vaclav Havel.

Havel, however, was absent today at Prague's historic castle where the cabinet was sworn in by Husak, 76. The opposition hopes Havel will be elected president in the next two weeks.

Husak had said yesterday he would step down as soon as the new government was named. Premier Marian Calfa announced on television after the swearing-in that Husak had quit, as

promised.

Havel told more than 300,000 elated citizens who jammed Prague's Wenceslas Square that they had achieved "a peaceful revolution."

Husak was Communist Party chief from 1969 to 1987, led the crackdown on the reform movement after it was crushed by a Warsaw Pact invasion in 1968.

Under his rule, some of those sworn in today were sent to jail or relegated to the most menial jobs.

They included Jiri Dienstbier,

a dissident imprisoned with Havel from 1979 to 1982, who became foreign minister.

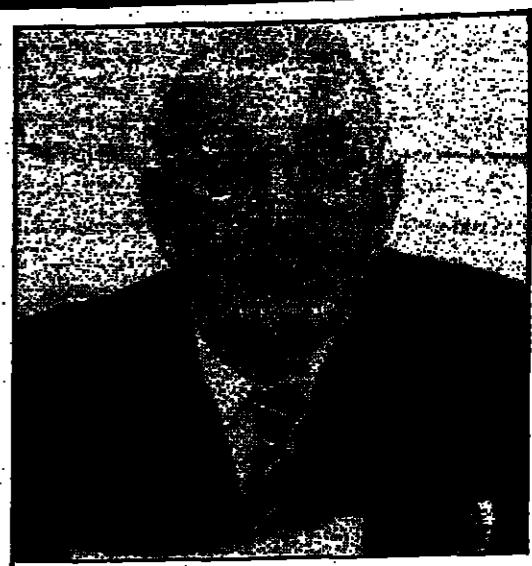
Jan Carnogursky, a Slovak lawyer and Roman Catholic activist, became a deputy premier in charge of the secret police and other state organs.

Carnogursky was in jail just two weeks ago, when he was among the first prisoners released under an amnesty as the communists scrambled to make concessions to the mass pro-democracy movement on the streets.

The new 21-member government contains 10 communists, two of whom enjoy opposition support, seven non-party members and two members each from the small Socialist and People's Parties, former docile communist allies.

Reform-minded communist economist Vaclav Komarek joins Carnogursky as a first deputy premier, meaning opposition-backed men are the most powerful after Marian Calfa, the relatively weak communist premier named on Thursday.

Havel waves to a crowd of hundreds of thousands of Czechs moments before the announcement of the new government. (Reuter wirephoto)



## Rally in Sofia to end CP rule

SOFIA, Dec 10, (Reuters): Tens of thousands of Bulgarians, shouting for their communist rulers to surrender their monopoly on power and hold talks with the opposition, massed in central Sofia today.

Chanting, banner-waving protesters cheered as leading political activist Zhelez Yanev called for the ruling Communist Party to hold a dialogue with the opposition groups.

"Our main idea is immediate preparation of national round-table dialogue with the Bulgarian Communist Party," Yanev shouted to a euphoric crowd from the snowy steps of the city's Alexander Nevski Cathedral.

Zhelez said talks should result in a new constitution that takes away the Communist Party's monopoly on power, separates powers and provides for a president elected by the people.

He called for the National Assembly, which meets on Thursday, to strike from the current constitution the clause mandating the Communist Party's leading role.

"Immediately," the crowd, which witnesses estimated at 50,000-strong, roared back.

Many protesters waved banners demanding that Bulgaria's National Assembly scrap the first paragraph of the constitution, which guarantees the party's leading role in government.

"Prague, East Berlin—Sofia" said one banner, a reference to the fact that Czechoslovak and East German communist parties have already surrendered their monopoly on power.

The protest, held in sub-zero temperatures, was organised by 19 of the opposition groups that have flourished in Bulgaria since new leader Petar Mladenov ousted veteran hardliner Todor Zhivkov last month.

Mladenov has carried out a sweeping purge of unpopular officials from top party posts—a move Western diplomats said was intended to show willingness to listen to opposition views. The party's decision-making Central Committee is due to meet again on Monday.

But many dissidents have said the changes are not enough.

"The changes so far have been purely cosmetic," Konstantin Trenchev, leader of the unofficial trade union Podkrepa, told Reuters.

"We hope this demonstration will exert pressure on the government to make them realise it's time to make a real effort."

More than 5,000 of the country's ethnic Turks also attended the meeting, shouting for the Bulgarian government to restore their religious rights and Islamic names which were removed by a cultural assimilation campaign during Zhivkov's 35-year rule.

The crowd dispersed peacefully after two hours and police did not intervene.

Petko Simeonov, another leading activist, recalled that the rally marked the 41st anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights.

"There is no turning back," he said. "Let's show that we can... without the control of a totalitarian government, become citizens like all Europeans. Our meeting is making history."



**Protest in Moscow**

Soviet Interior Ministry troops carry away a protester during a banned rally on Moscow's Pushkin Square called by the left-wing Democratic Union's group.

## Rallies in 8 cities challenge to new GDR leader

EAST BERLIN, Dec 10, (Reuters): Tens of thousands of demonstrators in eight East German cities sent out a challenge today to new reformist Communist Party chief George Gysi.

Some were bluntly anti-communist. Others voiced fears that right-wing groups could step in to fill the vacuum left by the virtual collapse of the communist power.

"Change or no change—no to the SED (Communist Party)," was the stark message on one placard at a protest by more than 1,000 pro-reform demonstrators in East Berlin.

Their banners spelled a rebuff to the party which human rights lawyer Gysi hopes to cleanse of the corruption left by disgraced former leader Erich Honecker, ousted by massive demonstrations in October and expelled from the party last week.

From Rostock to the north to Cottbus in the south, thousands kept up pressure for reform.

Protesters in Rostock carried banners declaring "no return" and "stop the brown (Nazis) danger," the official ADN news agency said.

But the toughest test for the 41-year-old Gysi, elected by an emergency party congress yesterday, comes on Monday on the streets of Leipzig, powerhouse of the mass protest movement.

Sebastian Pflugbeil, leading member of East Germany's biggest opposition group, New Forum, said he believed the party had little chance of staking off the legacy of corruption and misrule left by Honecker.

"I'm very sorry for Gysi... I doubt if he can succeed," he said, recalling that the liberal communists had fought to legalise New Forum as the reform movement gathered speed.

Pflugbeil told Reuters he feared the Leipzig demonstration, far from showing support for Gysi, would go further along the road of demands for German reunification.

There is a danger lurking behind the curtains that right-wing groups will organise to

exploit this kind of tendency... while other opposition groups are still unorganised," he said.

Gysi and communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow warned against hasty steps towards reunification at the emergency Communist Party congress that chose the new leader yesterday.

Gysi, an urban lawyer whose image is untainted by links with the old leadership, pledged to stamp out corruption and crush the Stalinist methods that kept the country in strict ideological check for so long.

Seven past leaders are already in custody on suspicion of corruption, including former state security minister Erich Mielke. Honecker is under house arrest in the compound that once served as a luxury retreat for high officials.

Murky tales of secret luxury villas and privileges have all but destroyed morale in the party. More than 500,000 of its 2.2 million members have turned in their cards since police first tried to stamp out corruption and crush the Stalinist methods that kept the country in strict ideological check for so long.

"We didn't start out with any aim of taking political power," Pflugbeil said. "The population is expecting so much of us, but many of us are so young and we don't have the perfected economic concepts the country needs after 40 years of misrule."

Candidates for East Germany's first free elections next May are already off and running, with two Mr Clean" communists taking a fast early lead over the rest of the amateur pack.

The date for the first free polls in 40 years of Stalinist dictatorship was announced on Thursday when the government and opposition had their first negotiating session.

But the communists, running for their political lives after "people power" protests had swept them from the scene, lost no time in finding a charismatic candidate to lead the party over the hurdles that lie before it.

"I'll vote for Gysi," Hans-Joergen Krueger, a truck driver who is not a party member, declared. "He knows what he wants, he is young... he will manage the crisis."

The communists will need every vote they can get. The party, by far the country's largest with 1.7 million members, has lost 500,000 from its ranks in the past two months.

While the communists have their "dream ticket," the other parties are still milling around at the starting line.

In Czechoslovakia, also in the throes of momentous and rapid political change, non-communists have taken 11 out of 21 portfolios in a new government announced at the weekend.

But in East Germany, no obvious leaders have emerged among reform activists—a weakness which has given the communists a lone ace card ahead of unprecedented free elections expected on May 6.

The Socialist Unity Party (SED)—the Communist Party's official title, which it is soon to change—is still the only force with a strong nationwide organisation.

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Havel waves to a crowd of hundreds of thousands of Czechs moments before the announcement of the new government. (Reuter wirephoto)

Husak appears on TV to announce his resignation plan. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Gorby ready to abandon party's grip on power

### Harm to East Germany won't be allowed

MOSCOW, Dec 10, (Agencies): President Mikhail S. Gorbachev has told the communist leadership he is ready to modify or abandon the party's constitutional monopoly on power but only as part of sweeping reforms defining its role to other "political forces."

"In the framework of this process, any article of the constitution can be the subject of modification or be excluded. This fully refers as well to article six, Gorbachev told the party's policy-making central committee at a plenary meeting yesterday.

Article six of the 1977 constitution guarantees the 20-million-mem-

ber party the "leading and guiding" role in Soviet public life. It has become a matter of fierce debate as disenchantment with the party's grip on power grows and fast-developing reform movements sweep through the Soviet allies in East Europe.

Hungary has dropped the name "communist" from the party's name and is preparing for multiparty elections. Poland has installed a non-communist prime minister. Czechoslovakia is to announce a non-communist-dominated government today and East Germany recently repealed the communists' monopoly on power.

### Baltic elections

## Reds face ouster

TALLINN, USSR, Dec 10, (AP): Communists are likely to lose power in Estonia and Latvia in local elections, according to polls taken in the Baltic republics.

"The past comes to an end today," the grassroots pro-democracy People's Front proclaimed in Latvia in an pre-election appeal asking voters to wrest power from the communists.

Results will be keenly monitored since they are the first of the country's 15 republics to hold elections for municipal councils under new rules allowing voters a choice of candidates.

Baloting also coincided with rising debate over the role of communists and Thursday's vote by the legislature of the third Baltic republic, Lithuania, to revoke the constitutional clause guaranteeing communist supremacy in society and political life.

In Estonia, more than 9,000 candidates are vying to fill 4,200 seats in city and rural councils throughout the Soviet Union's least populous republic with 1.6 million inhabitants.

Polls showed the most popular candidates are environmentalists, or Greens, with ethnic Estonians favouring the People's Front and the Russians favouring workers' associations with close links to communists.

"But if both ethnic and non-ethnic Estonians are considered, our opinion polls indicate 50 per cent support for the Greens—by far the best support. The communists would get under 10 percent," said Juhan Kivirank, from Estonia's department of public opinion and market research.

Non-communists are running on platforms ranging from environmental protection and economic reform to total independence for this Baltic state, absorbed into the Soviet Union through a 1939 non-aggression pact with Nazi Germany.

A subtle issue only quietly discussed is the tension between ethnic Estonians and immigrants, mainly Russians, comprising about 40 per cent of the republic's population.

"I cannot openly declare that I am anti-Russian, but every Estonian knows which candidate is against the Russians," Ain Roopson, an independent candidate, said in an interview.

## Support for Gorby sought

### Hungary ideal springboard

BUDAPEST, Dec 10, (Reuters): Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth will urge Britain during a visit there this week to help boost Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms by offering material support for the Soviet economy.

Nemeth, a pioneer of economic and political reforms in East Europe, says he will also tell British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher his country is an ideal springboard for the developing Soviet market.

The 41-year-old reformer, who starts a two-day visit to Britain on Tuesday, is by far the most popular politician in the country, according to a recent opinion poll.

But his future is in doubt because his ruling Socialist Party, re-formed from the old Communist Party, is not expected to emerge as the largest party in free elections next year.

Nemeth told a group of Western journalists on Friday that supporting the Soviet Union was in the interest not just of Europe, but of the whole world.

"We should strengthen and boost the Soviet economy, which is in a difficult situation, because the fate of politics is decided in the shops," he said.

"The Soviet economy is going through a very rough period. The old economy doesn't function, and the new one hasn't been established yet."

"No one should be allowed to do anything that will make his (Gorbachev's) job more difficult," he said. "What is required is tolerance, understand-

ing, and material and commercial support".

Nemeth said he would also tell Thatcher that Hungary was well-placed to take advantage of the new markets that are likely to open up in the Soviet Union and its allies as they modernise their economies.

"I am convinced Hungary could be a very good springboard for the Soviet market, especially if we succeed in making Hungarian-Soviet trade on a convertible currency basis," he said.

Nemeth said among issues he would be raising with Thatcher would be the list of restrictions on high-technology exports to communist countries imposed by Cocom, the 17-nation co-ordinating committee for multilateral export controls.

"Wherever we go, we always raise the damned list. I will be raising it in London."

He said however he was aware that the Cocom countries required some guarantees on the question of high-technology transfer. His Foreign Minister Gyula Horn had put some proposals on this issue to US officials during a recent visit to Washington but there had been no response so far.

Apart from Thatcher, Nemeth will meet Deputy Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and Chancellor John Major.

Nemeth warned unemployment will double and a legislator said the economy could be bankrupt as they continued talks with the opposition yesterday.

## Allied ambassadors to discuss the role of Berlin

## Unified GCC telephone network postponed

### Posts department re-organised

THERE have been no discussions on the establishment of a unified regional telephone network by the council of ministers of communications in the GCC states at their meeting held in the UAE recently, according to Abdullah Al Sharhan, minister of communications.

However, the official said that as the GCC states are using several and diverse telephone sets and systems, these pose some obstacles in the unification of specifications of telephone sets in the GCC states. These hurdles can be overcome with the engagement of experienced technicians.

Detailed studies about tele-

nical staff to study these specifications and to co-ordinate expertise among the GCC states to bring about a unification of specifications.

Sharhan pointed out that the ministry enhanced the telephone network at Nuzha Central by increasing its capacity by transferring 30,000 new telephone lines from Kuwait City's Central to Nuzha Area and by changing the old lines with new links. Work is expected to be completed before the end of next year, the official said.

Sharhan pointed out that the ministry re-organised the postal department to redress several problems and gaps existing in the

phone services in Kuwait have been undertaken to evaluate the existing services and with a view to develop them. These studies include proposals to develop the administration and equipment to cope with communications systems in advanced countries. A study about government mobile telephone services is also being undertaken and a final decision on this particular service will be taken in the coming few months.

Additionally, the ministry has appointed 50 postmen to solve problem of distribution of letters in different areas, Sharhan said.

The wireless abusers will be penalised

THE director of the Control, Frequencies and Wireless Licensing Department at the Ministry of Communications Sammy Khaled Al Amer has said that the ministry submitted a draft bill to the Council of Ministers providing for firm penalties against abusers of wireless equipment.

He said in the course of a lecture to the participants in the international telecommunications course for amateurs that the penalties could reach a fine of KD2,000 or a jail term not exceeding six months.

He added that the draft bill was designed to sort out all shortcomings of the existing law.

He stressed the department was operating round-the-clock to trace the source of nuisance calls made through the citizen band, and described the use of wireless equipment to telecast songs and music on Channel 16 which is allocated for transmission of help calls as improper behaviour could jeopardise people's lives.

The wireless abusers will be penalised



### Police Academy Training Course

The second computer training course was opened yesterday at the Police Academy. Director-general of the academy, Brig Khalid Al Munayes opened the course, which was attended by a number of high ranking officers and is aimed at computerising all work procedures.

Computers will speed up formalities at the General Traffic Administration, nationality department, passport and residence departments, and facilitate the issue of visit visas, police information, storage of fingerprints and other services.

### VACANCY

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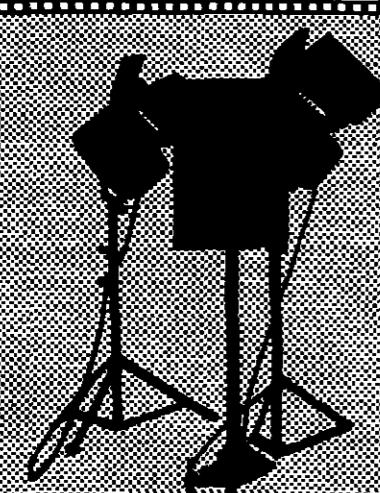
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### UK, Oman discuss Gulf peace efforts

Waldegrave in Muscat

MUSCAT, Dec 10, (AP): British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs William Waldegrave met yesterday with Omani Foreign Minister Yousef Bin Alawi for talks which centered on UN efforts to resume peace negotiations between Gulf war enemies Iran and Iraq, officials said.

The two ministers also discussed the situation on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Lebanese Crisis and bilateral ties, said the officials quoted by the Oman News Agency. The officials were not named.

Oman has been actively engaged in trying to foster the Iraq-Iran peacemaking process as it prepares to host later this month the annual summit meeting of the 6-nation Gulf Co-operation Council.

The Sultanate shares control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the Gulf, with Iran whom it enjoys good relations. It has been using these ties to mediate between Tehran and Baghdad to help UN efforts to turn an August 1980 cease-fire into a formal peace pact.

The UN efforts are based on Security Council resolution 598 in whose preparation Britain played an extensive role, and the GCC countries have been pressing Britain and other permanent members of the UN Security Council to prod the quest for the Iraq-Iran peace pact.

The 8-year Iraq-Iran war which started in 1980 had vast security and economic fallout on the rest of the Gulf littoral states represented in the GCC which groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Alawi recently hosted his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati for talks on the peace bid, and there are unconfirmed reports that the Sultanate is seeking to arrange a peace summit for the Iraqi and Iranian presidents.

Velayati's deputy, Ali Mohammed Besharati was meanwhile touring other GCC states, to review development of bilateral ties. He visited both the UAE and Qatar yesterday.

With the exception of Saudi Arabia, which ruptured ties with Tehran in April 1988 after accusing the Persian state of terrorism and subversion, relations between GCC capitals and Tehran have been generally upbeat since the cease-fire.

Waldegrave, whose country has traditionally strong political, military and economic ties with Oman, came on the third leg of a tour of the countries of the Southern Arabian Peninsula.

### US replaces carrier force with battleship in Gulf

MANAMA, Dec 10, (AP): In a quiet shift of policy, the United States has replaced its aircraft carrier force in the Indian Ocean with a battleship, leaving the region uncovered by a carrier for the first time in more than three years.

The 58,000-tonne US New Jersey, one of four World War II-vintage battleships restored to active duty in recent years, arrived this month to replace the carrier USS Midway, which had patrolled the waters just outside the Arabian Gulf since September.

#### Action

On Thursday, the New Jersey sailed through the Strait of Hormuz into the Gulf to make a series of port calls, the first American capital ship to enter the strategic waterway in modern times, according to Pentagon officials. A capital ship is a warship of first rank in armaments and size.

A Pentagon spokesman, Army Col Keith Schneider, called the movement a "routine operation to demonstrate a continuing US commitment to the region."

By coincidence, it came as Iran began a week of naval maneuvers in the south-

ern Gulf, described by Tehran Radio as the largest such exercise since 1979. It was the second major drill since Iraq and Iran agreed to a ceasefire in August, 1989, ending their eight-year war.

During the war, US aircraft carriers and battleships operated in the north Arabian Sea and sometimes ventured into the outer straits, but never entered the Gulf. US officials said the huge ships' presence in the narrow waterway was unnecessary and would doubtless be seen, especially by Iran, as a provocation.

The New Jersey, first brought out of mothballs during the Vietnam War and again in the early 1980s, carries its original nine 16-inch (41-cm) guns but has been upgraded with an array of modern weaponry including long-range Tomahawk cruise missiles.

It last saw action off the coast of Lebanon in 1983, firing in support of US marines on a peacekeeping mission. The bombardment proved controversial when the guns hit civilian areas.

Rear Adm. William M. Fogarty, Commander of the US Joint Task Force Middle East that includes the navy's 10-ship force in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean support unit, is a former skipper of the New Jersey. He left the ship just

## Legal Clinic

If you have a legal problem, labour or any other kind, send your questions to Arab Times, Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer Khalid Tahir replies to readers' queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.



the petition. It is also advisable to find out details about the contents of the petition.

WHAT is the minimum age limit for visa no. 18 for a female?

AYAKUMAR.

AS I told one of the readers last week, the minimum age limit is 18 years and the maximum 50.

I AM a Filipino seaman, contracted by a Dutch shipping company, my employer. I was recruited by a company in the Philippines. I worked for a Kuwait-owned ship, chartered by another country. My contract expired in October. But I would like to sail you if I can seek compensation during the extended services rendered to the company? To whom should I direct my claim?

SEANNA.

YOUR employer — the company which hired you — is responsible for payment. It does not matter who the ship's owner was, or which country chartered it. The contract made between you and your employer is important — whoever that employer may be, and accordingly you can claim compensation from that company.

I STUDIED in Kuwait. I have completed schooling and don't want to study further. I want to work. I am 17 years old, and living here on a student visa. I would like to obtain a work permit. At what age can I seek a transfer to visa no. 18 — after 18 years or 19 years. What is the procedure?

Raja.

THE minimum age to obtain a work permit is 18 years. To obtain a work permit, you first have to find a job, and a sponsor willing to give you visa no. 18. Once this has been done, you'll have to cancel the student visa, leave Kuwait and re-enter on the fresh work permit. A local transfer of residence may be possible if you can take permission from the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour to transfer the residence locally.

A criminal case is made in cases relating to slander, libel or defamation of character. Compensation can also be claimed. Kuwait's Criminal Law, article nos 209 to 212 cover such instances, which are many and varied. If the other party is found guilty, he/she is liable to imprisonment.

As I said earlier, I'll be in a better position to advise you if I know the exact nature of your case. Please send a copy of

the report to me.

THE only thing you can do is file a case to get a release letter and the passport from

your sponsor. It is, however, advisable to explain your problem and discuss the matter with your new sponsor in a nice manner.

I AM currently working as a supervisor in a hotel in Bahrain. A Kuwaiti guest left our hotel without settling his bill of BD300G two years ago. The management has deducted this sum owed by the guest, from my salary. This was done because I was held responsible for the guest. I managed to contact the guest in Kuwait at his residence. He promised to pay the amount in due course. Unfortunately, nothing happened.

In desperation, I contacted the Kuwaiti Embassy in Bahrain, where officials were very co-operative. The guest was contacted and I was to be paid by June 25 this year. However, nothing materialised.

Please advise me what course of action I should now take to get back my money?

S. AK.

YOU can file a case in Kuwait against the guest if you can prove in a court that he did not settle the bill. This can be done with relevant documents proving the guest stayed at the hotel, the duration of his stay, and any records saying he didn't settle the bill. You'll also need a certificate from the hotel management, saying the amount was deducted from your salary. To take legal action, you'll have to get a lawyer in Kuwait to follow up the case.

I AM working in a private company. I want to change my profession as my passport is valid on my residence permit as well as on my residence permit. I hold a valid residence permit for two years. Please advise me how to change my profession without any obligation.

YOU can get the changed profession endorsed on your passport from your employer in Kuwait. The endorsement is done only by the government issuing the passport. Contact the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour applying for a change of residence. Officials will guide you on how to get the new profession endorsed on your residence file.

In case you decide to change your profession, the new career must be similar to the job you hold. For example, if you are presently a businessman, you can't become a mechanic. Such changes are generally not accepted.



### Aviation secretarial seminar

Skyline Institute of Boodai Aviation concluded two weeks' Aviation Secretarial Seminar on December 6, '89. The secretaries of top commercial companies of Kuwait attended and it was conducted by Adly Moawad, Kamal Puri, George Andrawis and Husni Al Samadi. The participants were awarded completion certificates.

The Skyline Institute is specialised in travel and tourism education.

When the Gulf-based force was expanded in 1987 in response to the escalating "tanker war" threatening Gulf oil shipping, two battle groups — one headed by an aircraft carrier and the other by a battleship — were deployed to the area.

That ended when the USS Iowa, a sister ship of the New Jersey, left in February 1988 and was not replaced. Since then, a carrier force has remained in the area, although tensions have diminished sharply since the Iraq-Iran truce and the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan a year ago.

The most powerful US warships in the Gulf during the war were the USS Guadalcanal and USS Okinawa, both helicopter carriers, and the Aegis-type missile cruiser USS Vincennes, which mistakenly shot down an Iranian Airbus, killing all 290 aboard, on July 3, 1988.

The only combat role for the American jet carriers occurred on April 18, 1988, when aircraft from the USS Enterprise participated in a one-day war between US and Iranian naval forces, in which six Iranian vessels were sunk or damaged.

# Amir to attend GCC summit in Muscat

## Kuwait to participate in Arab-European talks

**KUWAIT, Dec 10, (Kuna):** His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah will take part in the 10th GCC summit scheduled for December 18 in Muscat at the head of a high-ranking delegation, it was officially announced here today.

The Kuwaiti cabinet, meeting here today under chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem Al Sabah was informed of the composition of the delegation accompanying HH the Amir.

In statements after the cabinet session, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed said HH would be accompanied by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Petroleum Minister, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Ministers of Finance, Commerce and Industry and Kuwait Ambassador to Muscat beside senior officials from the Amiri Diwan, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Commerce and Industry and a press and information delegation.

The cabinet was informed of the message received by HH the Amir from King Hassan II of Morocco in his capacity as current chairman of the Arab summit which dealt with the proposal by French President Francois Mitterrand, current chairman of the European Economic Community for resumption of Arab-European dialogue at foreign ministers' level expected to convene in Paris on the 22nd of this month.

The meeting was also apprised on the reply message by HH to King Hassan which contained the Amir's acceptance of the invitation and Kuwait's participation

in the dialogue to further boost Arab-European understanding.

The cabinet welcomed the French president's initiative and hoped that this positive step would contribute to more co-operation between the Arab and European groups for the interests of both sides.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister briefed the session on the meeting hosted Tuesday evening at Bayan Palace with representatives of the government and private sectors who prepared studies and reports related to the economic situation in the country.

HH informed the ministers on the ideas and remarks reviewed with the representatives of means of implementing the endorsed guidelines and principles which represent the core of studies and reports reached to activate the economic cycle in various sectors and activities.

HH praised the positive spirit and sincere desire shown by all participants to realize the constructive co-operation in achieving the common objective, Rashed said.

He said Sheikh Saad also urged the ministers, each in his field, to promptly adopt all measures necessary to implement the approved recommendations and to enhance the efforts of the committee entrusted with following up and implementing the recommendations compiled by the joint economic committee in such a manner that would ensure the aspired results of activating the economic movement and strengthening the national economy.

Rashed stated that Interior Minister

Sheikh Salem Al Sabah informed the council of ministers of the 8th session of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, concluded recently in Cairo. The cabinet was acquainted with the issues tackled by the session pertaining to means of fostering co-operation and co-ordination among Arab countries in security spheres within the frame-work of joint Arab action.

Sheikh Salem, Rashed went on, also briefed the cabinet on his meetings with senior Egyptian officials during his stay in Cairo which focused on the brotherly relations between the two countries.

Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadhi briefed the session on the results of the visit to the country last week by Mauritanian Health and Social Affairs Minister Njami Kan which focused on means of enhancing bilateral co-operation in addition to issues of mutual interest.

Rashed said Dr Awadhi also informed the session of the outcome of the preparatory meeting about prime health care held recently in Geneva to discuss means of co-operation and co-ordination of efforts aimed at developing health care on global level.

The council of ministers also took note of the minutes of the ministerial planning committee and discussed the recommendations proposed by the committee regarding the current population structure, labour force and basic projects within the framework of the forthcoming five-year plan. The cabinet endorsed the committee's recommendations in this connection, Rashed said.

The cabinet also listened to a briefing by Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa on the details of the economic study on construction of the petro-chemical complex at Shuaiba Industrial Area and various aspects of economic feasibility of the project, its estimated construction cost, production capacity, and use and marketing of its products.

After debating all details of the project, the cabinet resolved to refer them to the economic and financial committee for further study, Rashed said.

The meeting also reviewed the minutes of the recent session of the municipal committee and approved its resolutions.

Planning and Acting Public Health

## MTSC to lower rates for model subscribers

TO encourage telephone subscribers to reduce the number of calls a study recommends granting a reduction in the annual subscription charges, according to Abdulla Al Sabej, chairman of the Mobile Telephone Services Company.

Explaining the recommendations of the study the official said that the company could in the future give a ten per cent reduction in the amount of the annual subscription to subscribers who do not speak for more than the allocated 500 minutes a month. It is expected that the recommendations of the study will be applicable in the beginning of the new year.

The intended recommendation is being proposed with a view to reduce pressure on the central of the mobile telephone company and to expand the capacity of the central. However, he said that the company has called for a tender to build a new and modern central and to import new telephone sets.

The new central is expected to begin working in February 1991 and is also expected to reduce the price of the car telephones from KD400 to 300.

Sabek pointed out that the number of subscribers amount to 19,000 although the capacity of the central is 30,000 lines. He explained that the central is actually able to serve only 21,000 to 22,000 subscribers simultaneously as the system is bound to operate on the basis of the duration of calls spoken by subscribers at a given time together.

The company does not aim at collecting profits from subscribers, but the peak hours are limited to 4 to 5 hours daily with a view to reduce the pressure on the time units (minutes) being given free of charge every month.

These number of units are sufficient because 70 per cent of subscribers do not avail of this limit and the official said that the majority of subscribers should follow the same pattern of the majority.

Many of the subscribers have acknowledged that the new prices of the company have obliged them to use the telephone in the proper manner Sabek said and this is reflected in the average time of the call through the mobile telephone being reduced from 5 to 6 minutes to only 2.8 minutes.

The official said that most telephone calls originate from Salwa and Hawalli Areas, followed by Shuwaikh and Arab Gulf street. The high rise buildings at the Arab Gulf Street pose a serious technical problem for the central to receive and transmit calls issued from the street, Sabek said, but added that this problem will be solved after the establishment of a station near the Amiri Hospital.

Subscribers who desire to use their car telephones in Bahrain can do so after getting a license from the company. They are given certain telephone numbers and guided in their usage in Bahrain when Kuwait's coverage is stopped.



The simple life out of doors, in the desert

## Residents prepare to depart for the desert

By Fares Al Salman

MOST Kuwait residents are making preparations to receive the spring season by camping out in the desert with tents. However some desert campers have raised complaints mainly represented in the form of reckless youths and the random distribution of camps.

Sayessa interviewed a number of campers to ascertain their views with regard to camping in the desert during this season. Campers interviewed also commented on decisions made lately by officials to organise camps, and other promises made like opening a complex which include all necessary services such as a police centre, and other centres for emergencies, municipality and a canteen. These promises, in general, did not materialise was the consensus opinion.

Abdul Kareem Al Khaleefa who was camping in the Mishrif desert stated that campers have yet to establish their camps due to the fact that most government services provided are not complete. He said that several decisions made with regard to organising camps by the special numbering system, and establishing a police centre and a canteen are not yet implemented. Such services are essential for campers and will significantly contribute to inconveniences caused.

Yaqoob Yousif Al Duaij stated that he and his family are accustomed to camping and have been establishing camps for as long as 20 years. He added that he preferred Mishrif desert to other camping

grounds, adding that he considers the desert to be the only breather out of city noises and jams. He stated that in previous times camping was unorganised and had many problems but, now after these areas have been organised going camping has become an event looked forward to.

Sulaiman Al Madrees said that camping breaks the ordinary routine of daily life. He added that many camp owners presented complaints to security men against young boys, particularly those who practice the sport of motorcycling in the desert.

### Simple life

Adel Al Shama stated that a person could find a lot of joy in the desert while camping particularly since it is a way out of city life. He stressed that campers should bear in mind that the original idea was to get away from the easy living conditions of the city and to get closer to nature. He added that they should recognise that it is not essential that the government should provide all utilities and services but, rather live a simple life.

Shama stressed that one of the important services which should be present at camping grounds is security patrols to combat the recklessness of youngsters. He added that speedy measures should be taken to prevent problems.

Yousif Al Msalam said that after being accustomed to spending the spring holiday in the desert, it was impossible for him and the rest of his family to stay at home. He added that desert camping is a good opportunity to release tension and stress and called for specific measures to organise camps.

## Farwaniya requires more medical centres, says Ali

THE director of the Farwaniya Health Area Dr Sulaiman Falah Al Ali has denied the existence of firmly-established groups formed by shared personal interests at medical centres in the area.

Despite the number of existing medical centres in the area, there is still an urgent need for more health and medical services in the area due to the high population density and continuous construction of new urban residential areas, the official said.

He added that when the Farwaniya Hospital was originally built it was designed to provide services to 250,000 inhabitants in the area. The continuous rise in the population is attributed to the construction of new model investment areas in Jleeb Al Shuyukh, Farwaniya, Abrar Khatia, Riggai, which led to the availability of more flats at reasonable prices which caused a wave of immigration.

Subscribers who desire to use their car telephones in Bahrain can do so after getting a license from the company. They are given certain telephone numbers and guided in their usage in Bahrain when Kuwait's coverage is stopped.

to alleviate the pressure on the area's medical facilities.

### Study

Intensive studies are currently under way to expand the hospital in Farwaniya in order to end the suffering of the medical, administrative and nursing staff. Priorities will be assigned to start with expanding certain divisions, such as the divisions of maternity, paediatrics, gynaecology, internal medicine, ICU for patients with heart disorders, general surgery, urinary tract infections, physiotherapy, and others.

The medical and nursing staff at the hospital were of the best calibre in the country, and all staff are co-operating and endeavouring to provide the best possible services to out-patients and in-patients, Ali said.

He pointed out that mistakes committed by one doctor or nurse should not be generalised to ruin the reputation of all, as these mistakes were but individual cases and if any doctor

or nurse were involved in an intentional miscarriage of duties or ill-treatment of patients they would have to face legal responsibility.

He said that statistically the number of out-patients that visited the hospital in 1989 were 83,265, and patients visiting the casualty ward 150,744, while those who underwent surgical operations were 14,270 and the number of medical analyses made 1,217,189.

The total number of deliveries performed at the hospital by Caesarean section did not exceed 6.5 per cent, compared to the percentage of similar deliveries performed elsewhere at the other hospitals in Kuwait.

Diseases most common in Farwaniya were seasonal diseases, with no epidemic cases having been registered, Ali said.

He added that the medical staff at the prevention health department were very efficient and competent in handling emergency cases.

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## Audit bureau HQ tender to be issued this month

A TENDER for the construction of a building solely for the use of the Auditing Bureau is to be issued this month, according to Fares Al Wigayan, chairman of the bureau.

Commanding on the policy of Kuwaitisation, the official said that the bureau is concerned with the quality of employees and not quantity and the bureau is painstakingly pursuing a policy of recruiting the ideal Kuwaiti for placement in positions where expertise will be most prominent. The present strength of the staff is about 250 employees and the bureau is setting up a committee to develop the administrative cadre.

Wigayan pointed out that it is natural that auditing and control work is resented by the ministries. However, the official said that the auditing bureau tries to develop the concept of control that is adopted by ministers and their ministries.

Control is a kind of co-operation to protect and maintain public funds and when any mistakes are discovered, these are brought to the notice of the relevant ministers at the time of closing of accounts so as to avoid a repetition in the future.

He disclosed that HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister always support the AB and the bureau is further supported by the co-operation extended by the various ministries.

The reports of the Audit Bureau on the closing accounts of the ministries and government establishments are secret and cannot be revealed to the public.

He added that the recent econ-

# Economic report optimistic: experts

## Small debt settlement lauded

THE Joint Economic Committee

economic report has reiterated the fact that the private sector is complementing the efforts of the government and are eventually directed to supporting and protecting economic activity and related activities in the country. He described the co-operation between the government and the private sector in bringing out the highlights of this economic report as a concrete evidence of the efficacy of this co-operative spirit demonstrated by both parties for the first time.

### Optimism

In particular, he praised the recommendations relating to the settlement of small debts as ideal and an outstanding example of the co-operative efforts undertaken by the government and the private sector. This effort has in no small measure contributed to saving the state huge administrative financial losses and opened the way towards enhancing the uptake of the financial transactions in Kuwait.

Also speaking on the issue, Hamad Mohammed Al Bahar, Chairman of Kuwait Investment Company (KIC) said that the report has indeed created a lot of optimism in the financial circles and community of Kuwait and that the most important recommendation related to that which dealt with the banking support and the guarantees to be extended by the state to preserve the right of these banks locally and internationally.

One real estate dealer said that the report will go a long way in solving all the economic problems prevailing in the country. However, he stressed on the need to carry out the relevant proposals seriously. The individual praised the efforts exerted in this respect by the government and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

However, he was critical of the

bank's effort in not setting up or recommending any solutions to settling debts exceeding KD250,000 and the failure of the report to contain any encouraging percentage of discounts or incentives for this denomination of debtors. He called for radical and urgent solutions to address these types of debts.

Speaking of the free zone in Kuwait, a merchant said that a memo in this connection had been submitted to the authority concerned in 1984. However, sad to state, no resolution in this connection had been adopted till date. Conversely, in the neighbouring state of Dubai, for example, the relevant solution was issued within one week.

The merchant further stated that overlapping of functions between the Central Bank and the local banks constituted an administrative burden to both sides and is an obstacle towards enhancing the economic upswing of the country.

A dealer in the stock exchange

praised the important role accredited to the private sector in the Joint Economic Committee report as an indication that the government intends to decentralise some public corporations.

He confirmed that the contribution of the private sector in the constructional and housing sectors by providing priority to local contracting companies will directly and effectively push forward the economic process.

The pragmatic approach to giving confidence to the private sector and prohibiting the awarding of tenders to sub-contractors and imposing of strict penalties on violators will minimise the role of foreign companies in the country and provide every opportunity to enhance the technical expertise and capabilities of local engineering and construction firms and also the team of local expertise, the dealer said.



## Civil defence training

The second batch of female civil defence volunteers continue with theoretical training at the headquarters of the General Department of Civil Defence. The training started last Tuesday and will last until Dec 13, 1989. The next day, marks the first day of practical training ending on Jan 24, 1990.

Theoretical training presented to volunteers include three programmes on the general civil defence strategy, early warning and protection from air raids in addition to other lectures on industrial security and first aid.

Practical courses include rescue operations, belt applications, and treatment of emergency cases like poisoning, accidents, bleeding and fractures.

Lt Col Ali Al Numran the assistant director of the Training Department explained that the programme

of the second batch of female volunteers is characterised with a longer practical training course in order to achieve maximum benefit.

He indicated that generally, the training period is considered to be short and that after the training school is established a longer course will be offered. He thanked all female volunteers for their effective participation.

The lecturer on air raids, Major Hamad Al Balood stated that female volunteers receive special training on this issue in order to develop their abilities in facing air raids. He pointed out that rescue, fire fighting and security teams will also be comprised of female volunteers.

Picture shows volunteers in the classroom.

## Kuwaitis called to train as vets

He added that the protection of animals against diseases contributed significantly to the national efforts for boosting food security plans.

He urged Kuwaiti female students to join this field or related services, calling on all relevant government authorities to provide facilities, support and incentives to students meaning to study this vital medical discipline.

He further said

## EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1981

**ARAB TIMES****Thought for today**

**WE owe to the Middle Ages the two worst inventions of humanity — gunpowder and romantic love — Andre Maurois, French writer (1885-1967).**

## OPINION

### Decisions three years too late

THE government has committed itself to assist any bank that fails to recover loans granted to debtors. By debts, we mean here the debt programme estimated at KD1.5 billion.

Right at the outset, we emphasise that the latest decisions aimed at reactivating the country's economy, were well studied and emanated from a correct understanding of the situation.

Though we reiterate that the latest economic decisions have had a positive aspect, they have not covered all issues.

The decisions are highly important, positive and promising, but nevertheless, the fact remains that these decisions should have been issued three years ago in order to be more efficient and successful.

In the final analysis, it appears that these decisions will not be very effective in reactivating the stock exchange market. Since 1986, the government spent over KD1 billion on the real estate market — a fact that has provided the market its present strength and stability. On the other hand, the stock exchange market stayed under ill-designed laws and regulations. Additionally, the market is also influenced by other financial aspects, such as the Kuwaiti economy witnessing a slow growth despite the financial strength of the government.

Interestingly, the slow growth of economy was coupled by a dramatic decision to increase the interest rates by 50 per cent. This action led to a state of shock which further slowed down the economic growth. Usually, when there is economic growth, interest rates are brought down to help bring back funds from abroad.

If we carefully study the implications of funds flowing out of the country into dollar accounts because of the differences in interest rates, we observe that it is the government who owns the funds and not individuals and it is the government who changes its money into dollars.

Consequently, the increase in interest rates proportionately had no great influence on private capital. Rather, it led to further slowing down of the economic growth and resulted in a price hike. Thus, the increase in interest rates contributed to further harming the stagnant situation at the stock market and also in adversely influencing the import-export or the general trade movement — including opening letters of credit for markets of the region which was being channelled through Kuwaiti banks.

Although the report arrived late, it has a very positive aspect and if implemented in a comprehensive manner, it will compensate for the time lost. The report should not restrict its recommendations to improving the efficiency of the difficult loans settlement programme.

Confining the recommendations to improving the programme, will not bring any new developments — as the minister of finance has always been talking about. The most important task is to activate the stock market so as to reduce pressure on the big bad debts and minimise the government burden in this issue.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Reforms come to East Europe

## Nationalism and racism increase

VIENNA, Austria. (AP): Sometimes overlooked in the new climate of freedom in Eastern Europe is an increase in nationalism and racism.

In the Soviet Union, East Germany, Hungary and Poland, there are signs of nationalism and anti-Semitism that suggest the four decades of communist rule simply suppressed traditional rivalries, rather than eradicating them.

Several quarrels have crossed national borders. Tensions have increased between Hungary and Romania in particular, and Romania has renewed a territorial dispute with the Soviet Union.

Since Mikhail Gorbachev allowed more openness and lifted iron controls on dissent within the Soviet Union, ethnic and racial hatred have resurfaced in Soviet Central Asia and in the Caucasus Republics. Ethnic violence there has killed more than 300 people.

Azerbaijan and Armenia are in conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region and the Baltic republics are gripped by growing nationalist sentiment. In the Baltics, such sentiment occasionally translates into at least indirect discrimination, such as laws meant to discourage the immigration of Russians and other "foreign" ethnic groups.

Writing in the current issue of Foreign Affairs, Zbigniew Brzezinski says that although communism "proclaimed itself to be a doctrine of internationalism, communism in fact intensified popular nationalist passions."

The former US National Security adviser said all these states have borders that are potentially subject to revisionist aspirations on the part of their neighbours.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1515 — Pope Leo X surrenders Parma and Piacenza to France by treaty of Bologna.
- 1718 — Sweden's King Charles XII is killed at Frederikshavn in expedition against Norway.
- 1878 — French-British dual control in Egypt is suspended.
- 1888 — Italy supports Menelik of Shoa in revolt against Ethiopia's Johannes IV.
- 1899 — British forces are repulsed at Magersfontein, Orange Free State.
- 1921 — British arrest members of Indian National Congress in India.
- 1936 — George VI becomes king of England following abdication of Edward VIII.
- 1941 — United States declares war against Germany and Italy in World War II.
- 1961 — Two US helicopter companies arrive in Saigon on aircraft carrier in first direct US military support for South Vietnam's battle against communist guerrillas.
- 1972 — US Apollo 17 astronauts land on Moon to begin extensive exploration of lunar surface.
- 1987 — US and five allies sign pact allowing Soviet observers to visit a dozen European missile facilities.
- 1988 — Palestinians stage impromptu general strike in occupied Gaza Strip to protest fatal shootings of two Arab youths.



Yasser Arafat (left) talks to Perez de Cuellar at the UN in Geneva. (Reuter wirephoto)

## American motives in doubt

## US on collision course with UN

UNITED NATIONS, (AP): The PLO's failure to win UN recognition as the government of Palestine is the latest in a series of confrontations that have put the United States on a collision course with the world body and generated suspicion about US motives.

Last Wednesday, Arab nations, pressured by the United States, abandoned their efforts to enhance the status of the Palestine Liberation Organization and recognize it as the provisional government of the still-non-existent state of Palestine.

The United States had threatened to cut off funding to the United Nations if the 159-nation world body agreed to enhance the PLO's status, giving it a standing equivalent to that of other non-voting observer states, like the Vatican, Switzerland, Morocco, San Marino and North and South Korea.

The United States, the major UN donor, was effectively threatening the organization with bankruptcy if it did not obey Washington and drop the PLO issue.

The PLO and some Arab diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the US action had enhanced the visibility of the PLO and, in the long run, had strengthened its cause.

But they and other diplomats did not expect the move would alter the way the United States does business in the world body.

The United States is the organization's largest donor and is one of five permanent members of the 5-member Security Council with veto power. The US government can kill any measure in the council, which can pass mandatory resolutions and is the most important UN body.

Although the United States often is outvoted in the 159-nation General Assembly, that body's resolutions are not binding.

The PLO already is invited to speak during all General Assembly debates concerning the Middle East and the Palestinian question. The Security Council routinely overrides US efforts to keep the PLO from participating in debates there.

Riyad H. Mansour, deputy permanent observer of the PLO, said the US efforts at "financial blackmail" had harmed US credibility in the world body and in the Middle East peace process. But he said he did not expect any change in US behaviour as a result.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, assembly president Joseph Garba and the leaders of regional groups in the world body all have denounced Washington for linking its funding to the assembly's vote on a specific issue.

The United States is assessed \$216 million each year, one quarter of the UN budget. But it is \$459 million in general arrears and owes an additional \$191 million in contributions to peacekeeping operations.

The United States won the battle over the PLO issue because of its financial might. But in the long run it may have lost additional prestige and honour in the organization by throwing its weight around, without regard to the will of the majority, said some diplomats from Arab and developing world countries.

Arab nations, although bowing to US pressure, criticized the United States for what some diplomats called bullying tactics and attempting to unfairly influence the issue with "financial terrorism."

Last week, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization defied a US threat to cut off funds and gave greater recognition to the PLO. It voted overwhelmingly to help it teach Palestinians how to grow food in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The State Department has not announced whether it will make good on previous threats to halt funding or possibly withdraw from FAO.

The PLO was given observer status to the United Nations in 1975 after a visit by President Yasser Arafat. The United Nations considers it the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in the Middle East.

But the United States, an ally of Israel, consistently has sought to curtail PLO rights, guaranteed by the host country agreement between the United States and the United Nations.

The US-PLO dispute at the UN dates to late 1987 when the US Congress adopted an anti-terrorism law that called for closing the UN observer mission of the PLO, on grounds that it indirectly promoted terrorism. The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution rebuking the United States and saying the PLO has a right to function here.

The International Court of Justice in the Hague also said the US decision was a violation of the UN headquarters agreement.

A US district court judge also upheld the right of the PLO to operate a mission.

In November 1988, the United States refused to grant visa to a delegation of the PLO to attend the assembly, as it had done in 1975. Again the General Assembly protested and it decided to move its session to Geneva in order to hear Arafat, delivering another blow to US prestige.

At that session in December, Arafat renounced terrorism and implicitly recognized Israel's right to exist. The United States then opened negotiations with the PLO in Tunis; the talks are not making major progress on substantive issues, but are continuing.

## Bailout of loans

MY wife and I bought this little savings and loan bank as a sideline in case the column ever went sour. It was mom-and-pop operation, and we never loaned more than \$50 million to one customer.

Most of it went to my brother-in-law Siegfried, who ran a dry-cleaning establishment on Wisconsin Avenue. Siegfried needed the money to construct a 100-acre housing community for Washington consultants, who now number about three million.

The Mom and Pop S&L was doing fine, particularly since we paid twice as much interest to our depositors as any savings institution inside the Beltway.

Then Siegfried fell on hard times. The development was constructed on radon, and the walls were full of lead. Siegfried built 24 lighted baseball diamonds only to discover that most Washington consultants preferred to play golf. To save money, Siegfried eliminated all the bathrooms. This slowed down rentals, and pretty soon Siegfried had no cash flow to pay his loans.

I said to my wife, "Momma, I think we're in trouble. We can't keep paying 20 per cent interest if no one honours his debts."

"You can say that again, Poppa. It seems to me that the only businesslike thing to do is have Washington bail us out."

"Do you think they will?" I asked her.

"That's what the government is for. An S&L can't function unless there is someone there to pick up the pieces."

My wife was right as usual. So I went down to the Senate Office Building and told one of the receptionists, "I am here to get bailed out for a series of silly loans I made to members of my family."

She told me, "I'm sure that the senator will be happy to see you. How many tables are you buying to his birthday party next week?"

"How many do you suggest?"

"If I was trying to keep my savings and loan institution afloat, I would purchase at least 10 at \$10,000 a table."

I whipped out my checkbook, and she smiled. "Would you like meat or fish?"

A few minutes later, the senator came out of his office, dragging a man by his collar. He threw him out the door and shouted, "Don't come back until you give me my Honesty in Government Political Action Committee."

He ushered me in. "I'd like to call in four of my senatorial colleagues to hear your story."

"Do I give them a check now or later?" I inquired.

"It's up to you. None of us is pushy."

The four other senators arrived and we sat around discussing my bailout. When I told them that I had used a lot of money to fix up my horse farm and the racing commission wouldn't look into it, they groaned and said, "How dare they get on your back for that? You are a constituent of ours."

I agreed. "I'm good constituent. I give to senators whether they ask me or not."

The five assured me that there was nothing to worry about. If any heads rolled, they would be those of the commissioners who had never given a political campaign in their lives.

Tears came to my eyes and I whispered, "I don't know how to thank you."

One of the senators said, "Don't worry. My finance committee chairman will tell you." Los Angeles Times Syndicate

## Quote me

**C** "But we know he has limits beyond which he will not go. It is our historic purpose to take him there or to go on without him. We reiterate our commitment to one person, one vote in a united South Africa as the non-negotiable principle on which a future South Africa will be built. The regime ... has done its utmost to break us, whipping our people, declaring the states of emergency, assassinating and detaining our leaders. And it has failed. We gather here in greater numbers than ever before." — Walter Sisulu at anti-apartheid gathering.

"Being Latin (from Panama) I don't get the right respect. They (Americans) never gave me the opportunities. They kept me separated. They give me bad press, but the public knows me." — Roberto Duran.

"I'm sad because this took place. But hopefully it will be the beginning of a constructive sequence of reforms which are really needed to ensure that this does not happen again." — Diosdado Macapagal, president of the Philippines from 1961-65 on the abortive uprising.

"It's a difficult time for the Libyans because conflicts at the root of the political mentality. They are working on their own perestroika (restructuring) in international relations but it's as though they are trying to catch up with a moving train." — An Eastern bloc diplomat with long experience of Libya on the East-West detente.

"Not too much longer... I don't think he can much longer. It's just the law of averages. Sooner or later he'll hurt himself a little or something will happen and he'll lose some confidence in the middle of a match." — John McEnroe on being asked whether Ivan Lendl can persist in his winning ways.

"Your diversity is our strength. The gigantic task of this conference is to confirm the crucial importance of unity, and to plan a programme of mass action ... that will challenge the apartheid state." — Walter Sisulu to an audience at an anti-apartheid conference.

"The militias will be disbanded at a future cabinet session and if any group tries to ignore the decision it will be suppressed through the appropriate means and that require seeking the help of Syrian forces." — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi.

"If only that were possible (resignation) but when one is committed to the people and elected by the people... I shall serve Colombia until the last moment." — Colombian president to reporters at Catatumbo military base in Bogota returning from Japan.

"I like Guillit because he is a strong on-field presence. He's also very good in the van. Van Basten is a master at finding space. And I've always liked a soccer player with a natural peach for scoring goals." — Former England soccer captain Bobby Charlton.

"A message must go out from this conference that the struggle is not about to be abandoned in favour of negotiations. The aim of the struggle is not to end capitalism." — Jerry Mousa, of black consciousness movement of Azania, to an anti-apartheid conference.

## Peaceful march through Nazareth

### Israeli Arabs support uprising

#### Agony and emotions of intifada

#### Arab film recreates Palestinians' struggle

nationalism among Israel's Arabs — and strengthened Jewish suspicions of their fellow citizens — but the hardships of the struggle have mainly fallen mainly on the 1.75 million Arabs in the occupied areas.

Inside those territories shops close everyday by noon on orders of underground Palestinian leaders, and full strike days are frequent.

Arab schools have been shut for much of the two years, standards of living have fallen and tens of thousands have suffered arrest, injury or death.

"There is no peace in the streets, there is no peace in your home, no peace anywhere," said owner of a Jenin pharmacy, one of the few shops kept open during strikes.

But for all the sympathy Israeli Arabs feel for Palestinians in the occupied territories, they do not share their goals.

Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza want to replace Israeli occupation with an independent Palestinian state, those inside Israel are fighting for equal treatment as Israeli citizens.

"The Palestinians in the occupied areas don't

have anything to lose. But those here do," said Sufyan Fahoumi, a local government official in Nazareth, Israel's largest Arab town.

The limits of their support for the uprising were shown during the Nazareth demonstration, when organisers such as Fahoumi removed banned Palestinian flags from marchers to avoid provoking the police.

The 650,000 Israeli Arabs, 16 per cent of the Jewish state's population, suffer subtle discrimination in areas ranging from expropriation of land to the quality of education.

Recent polls showing support growing among Jews for "transfer" — the euphemism for mass deportation of the Arab population to another country — frightened Israeli Arabs.

"It's not losing the house or the car, it's more than that," Fahoumi said of the pressures on Israeli Arabs. "We are afraid to be expelled, that is the main fear."

The Arabs remaining in Israel decided to stay when others fled after Israeli independence in 1948.

#### Army uniforms.

The film drew actors and actresses from throughout the Arab world and will have its premiere at the New York Film Festival in February.

"We chose New York because it is the 'stronghold of Zionism,'" Khateeb said in reference to the city's large pro-Israeli Jewish population.

An Army of 10,000 extras, including Palestine

## MIDEAST

**Israel should 'accept' partition**

CAIRO, Dec. 10, (UPI): President Hosni Mubarak said yesterday that Israel should abide by the 1947 UN Security Council Resolution 181 calling for the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Palestinian states.

Mubarak made the remarks upon his return from Amman, where he held talks with Jordan's King Hussein on the Middle East, including the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the civil war in Lebanon.

Mubarak said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's recent remark that Jordan is the substitute homeland for the Palestinians amounted to "interference" in Jordan's internal affairs."

"Why this talk now?" Mubarak asked. "Does Shamir want to complicate the peace process? and why does Shamir make such remarks at this time in particular, while serious efforts are being exerted to push ahead the peace making process in the Middle East."

"Shamir's remarks mean a return to the start of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Arab side might as well call for the return of all Arab territories including Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip," he said.

Mubarak acknowledged Jordan is basic to the peace-making process and noted that Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat wants to establish a confederation between Jordan and a future Palestinian state.

But he declared, UN Resolution 181, calling for establishing a Palestinian state and an Israeli one, must be abided by. And Israel must abide by this Security Council resolution."

Mubarak then warned against what he described as attempts to frustrate the current peace-making efforts in the region.

Asked if there were prospects of convening a direct Palestine-Israeli dialogue in the near future, "not with US support of Sultan Baker's plan," Mubarak said, "We hope so, as we are exerting all this effort to make this come true."

Mubarak said he thought the reservations of both Israel and the PLO about the Baker plan were "necessary," since the process is not going to be an easy one.

"But the dialogue must first start," he said, with both sides sitting "together to begin the dialogue in order to understand each other's viewpoints and discuss them toward a solution."

Mubarak said a trilateral American-Israeli-Egyptian meeting at the foreign ministers level will occur soon to discuss how to pave the way for starting the dialogue.

Israel and Egypt have accepted the Baker's plan in principle.

**Jordan releases politicos****Passports to be returned**

AMMAN, Dec. 10, (Reuters): Jordan's new Prime Minister Mudar Badran said today he hoped to lift martial law which has been in force since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

"I wish for the abolition of martial law, but it has many effects that need study," he told the newly-elected Parliament.

Badran suggested Parliament form a committee to study the feasibility of ending martial law regulations. The house took no immediate decision on his proposal.

He pledged to end restrictions on travel and employment, saying passports confiscated by the security forces were being returned to their owners.

Interior Minister Salem Massadeh told Reuters the number of confiscated passports to be returned was less than 500.

Previous governments often used to ban political opponents from travel or employment in government jobs.

**Israel using chem weapons: Arafat**

**Two Palestinians killed in Gaza**

CAIRO, Dec. 10, (Agencies): Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, charged Israel with using chemical weapons to quell the 2-year-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, the Middle East News Agency reported.

Arafat vented his charges in a speech carried by the Mensa in the North Yemeni capital Sanaa to mark the second anniversary of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The intifada has faced chemical warfare for two years," Arafat said. "Two official reports, one American and another Belgian, have acknowledged that what Israel describes as tear-gas is in fact poisonous gas," the news agency reported.

"The Palestinian people will continue their struggle through the intifada's successive waves until the flags of Palestine are hoisted over holy Jerusalem," Arafat said, according to the Mensa.

**Israeli oppression instigated uprising**

ATLANTA, Dec. 10, (Reuters): Ex-president Jimmy Carter, in a ceremony honouring Middle East human rights workers, said yesterday that Israel's "oppression" in occupied territories had instigated the two-year-old Arab uprising.

Carter also said that, despite some recent policy changes by President George Bush, the "Reagan legacy" of Washington backing for military violence around the world survives.

Carter, who mediated the Israel-Egypt peace accord and now promotes human rights and peace as a private citizen, made his remarks in an address at his Atlanta policy centre, where a \$100,000 prize was given jointly to the Palestinian Al Haq and Israeli B'Tselem groups.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said its diplomat had been told to boycott the ceremony in which the four-year-old human rights award, named for Carter and French-born Houston philanthropist Dominique de Menil, would be given to human rights defenders of the Palestinian cause.

Carter, in his annual "state of human rights address," said activists watching abuses world-wide have only recently begun to focus public attention on the "humiliation and suffering in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on people for more than 22 years have never known a day of freedom."

"This oppression has instigated the violence of the intifada," he said, adding that "damage to human souls has been reciprocal. The peace, reputation and conscience of Israeli citizens have suffered terribly, while 40 of them have lost their lives. Such are the ravages of war."

But the former president, who made human rights a major facet of policy during his presidency from 1977-81, complained that world leaders are largely indifferent to the cost of war on innocent populations and "scattered outcries for world peace (are) simply ignored or considered signs of weakness or idealistic political aberrations."

"It is not easy to face facts. Everyone knows that the Israelis and the Palestine Liberation Organisation — yes, the PLO — must work together to resolve the conflict so that Israel's security can be preserved while the Palestinians finally enjoy self-determination and human rights," he said.

"Despite some commendable reverses in policy during recent months, the Reagan legacy survives," Carter asserted. "We have poured billions of dollars into El Salvador, much of the support going to military leaders who openly condone and probably direct the notorious death squads."

"But the dialogue must first start," he said, with both sides sitting "together to begin the dialogue in order to understand each other's viewpoints and discuss them toward a solution."

Mubarak said a trilateral American-Israeli-Egyptian meeting at the foreign ministers level will occur soon to discuss how to pave the way for starting the dialogue.

Israel and Egypt have accepted the Baker's plan in principle.

**Tension in Beirut**

Two Christian Lebanese Forces militiamen stick posters of their leaders in East Beirut to mark the Day of Resistance. Tension grew in East Beirut between the Lebanese Forces and army troops of defiant General Michel Aoun and a military confrontation appeared to be imminent. (Reuters photo)

**Secret contacts seek agreed list of Palestinians for talks**

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec. 10, (AP): Secret contacts involving Israel, the United States and Egypt are underway to choose Palestinian negotiators for preliminary peace talks, an Israeli newspaper and Palestinian activists said today.

The independent Yediot Achronot daily said the parties hope to draw up an agreed list of Palestinians before next month's tripartite meeting in Washington when US Secretary of State James Baker is to host foreign ministers Moshe Arens of Israel and Esmat Abd el Meguid of Egypt.

The behind-the-scenes diplomacy was aimed at circumventing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's refusal to have direct or indirect dealings with the PLO.

Shamir's spokesman Avi Panzer denied secret contacts were underway, saying, "it's not true; it's only speculation. There are no secret

contacts. We haven't reached that stage yet." But two Israeli officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said discussion of Palestinian negotiations may come up in talks expected later this month in Washington to prepare the foreign ministers' meeting proposed by Baker.

Assad Saftawi of Gaza City, a leading Palestinian activist and a sometime close associate of PLO chief Yasser Arafat, confirmed the report to the Associated Press.

"I know there are secret negotiations between parties to the conflict," Saftawi added, noting that he was scheduled to travel to Cairo later this week to discuss the subject.

Saftawi also confirmed that he was one of some 20 names being considered as potential negotiators. Ten will be selected for the negotiating team when the ministers meet in Washington, Yediot Achronot said.

Another leading Palestinian, Sari Nusseibeh

of East Jerusalem, said he had heard contacts were underway. "I don't think there is a complete and final list of names. I think there is a serious and continuing discussion," he said in a telephone interview.

The Washington meeting has been called by Baker in advance of proposed Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo to arrange for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The elections would chose Palestinian negotiators for talks on autonomy for the occupied lands' 1.7 million Palestinians.

Other Palestinian names listed by the newspaper as potential Palestinian negotiators, were Faizul Hussain of East Jerusalem, Amr Fayez Abu Rahme of Gaza City, Radwan Abu Ayash, Chairman of the Arab Journalists' Union from the West Bank town of Ramallah, Hama Shmura, a newspaper editor

from Jerusalem, said Kenaan, a Nablus businessman, and Jamil Tarifi, a lawyer from Ramallah.

According to the report, discussion of Palestinian negotiators began in Cairo last summer during a meeting between Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak.

Since then, Israel has reportedly listed names it would agree to and also indicated a readiness to compromise on two key Palestinian demands previously rejected.

One demand involves the inclusion of Palestinians from outside the occupied territories in the negotiating team.

Shamir has refused, claiming it would allow the PLO into the talks through the back door and indirectly recognise the right of exiled Palestinians to return.

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wall Street blamed for interest rates confusion

WASHINGTON, Dec 10, (Reuter): Wall Street has only itself to blame for the millions of dollars lost recently in the confusion over the course of interest rates, a top Federal Reserve Board official said on Thursday.

He said he was amazed that the markets misinterpreted the US central bank's credit policy so badly.

The official told reporters that even an unsophisticated Fed-watcher, let alone Wall Street's highly paid army of experts, should have realised that the central bank's operations in the money markets in the week of November 20-24 did not signal an easier monetary policy.

Investors snapped up treasury bonds and bills on Wednesday, November 22 in the belief the Fed was pushing interest rates down, only to be left counting their losses a few days later once it became clear that the Fed was doing no such thing.

"Some people bet the wrong way. They were overly anxious in trying to be ahead of the market and speculate," the official, who asked not to be identified, told a press lunch organised by the Bretton Woods Committee, a group that supports the international Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Several elaborate theories have been concocted to try to explain one of the most bizarre episodes in the money markets in recent years.

One holds that Fed officials in Washington did, in fact, ease credit but then had to reverse course because of protests from inflation hawks who control the Fed's regional banks.

Another theory has it that the Fed was trying to trap a mole who had leaked confirmation of previous easing moves.

But the senior Fed official said there was a simpler explanation.

Wall Street fouled up. "There wasn't any strong reason for the markets to be excessively confused," he said.

The episode has reopened a debate over whether the Fed should dismally postpone changing its monetary policy but the official said the bank preferred to retain discretion over its actions in case economic conditions changed suddenly.

As for the outlook for interest rates, the official said a further reduction might be needed at some point but for the moment the Fed was waiting to see how housing and other sectors of the economy respond to the credit easing that has already occurred.

**Turkey and Moscow sign trade pact**

ANKARA, Turkey, Dec 10, (AP): Turkey and the Soviet Union signed a pact on Wednesday calling for a 50-per cent increase in trade in the next two years.

The sides agreed to increase their trade volume to a total of \$3 billion for the years 1990 and 1991.

The trade is expected to reach \$1 billion by the end of this year, up from \$700 million in 1988.

Turkey pledged to provide \$100 million credit from its Eximbank to the Soviet Union for the purchase of consumer goods next year, according to the protocol.

In January, Turkey will start releasing a \$350 million investment credit to the Soviet Union that was previously agreed upon, the protocol said.

The protocol was signed by Turkish Finance Minister Ekrem Pakdemirli and Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Lev Voronin.

They also agreed to undertake a wide range of construction projects in each other's countries.

**French trade team in Tehran**

NICOSIA, Dec 10, (Reuter): A French trade delegation, said to be the first to visit Iran since Paris and the Islamic republic restored diplomatic relations last year, arrived in Tehran today.

The Iranian news agency Irna said the delegation, representing 32 French companies, met the head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce Ali Asgari Khamoushi.

Irna, received in Cyprus, quoted Khamoushi as saying Iran wanted to expand its relations with France.

The agency reported the head of the French delegation Christian de Malle as saying that French industrialists were keen to co-operate on economic projects in Iran.

## Kuwait can provide institutional links to exporters

# Malaysia gives incentives to investors

AHMAD SARJI, secretary-general at Malaysia's Ministry of Trade and Industry has said the current trading environment in Kuwait is favourable in the context of expanding Malaysia-Kuwait bilateral trade. Market opportunities are changing with new products and new kinds of demands. The recent exchange rate movements are causing a change in consumer preference. Opening up opportunities for new products and suppliers.

He said the positive developments in the region have given impetus to the role of Kuwait in the transit trade. Kuwaiti trading companies are starting to re-evaluate their business relationships. So Malaysia exporters must also act accordingly.

The National Bank of Kuwait has also stated that "Business is a pleasure for most Arabs and is conducted between friends. Establishing friendship is vital in order to conclude successful deals. Hence the visiting businessmen must be prepared to be sociable yet, when necessary, professional and well prepared... Concluding a deal is

only the start of a business relationship, never the end."

Malaysian businessmen should strive to develop such relationship with their Kuwaiti counterparts.

Malaysian embassy in Kuwait organised a dinner in honour of the visiting Malaysian trade delegation yesterday at Kuwait International Hotel.

The Malaysian government welcomes foreign investment in the manufacturing sector. In keeping with the objective of ensuring increased Malaysian participation in manufacturing activities, it is government policy to encourage projects to be undertaken on a joint-venture basis.

Foreign investors are permitted to hold whatever level of equity of up to 100 per cent, if the company exports 80 per cent or more of its production, irrespective of whether or not the company's products compete with products presently being manufactured locally for the domestic market.

A company that has been approved under the new equity

guidelines will not be required to restructure its equity at any time, even after the year 1990, notwithstanding the fact that the company may have undergone an expansion or diversification, provided that the company continues to comply with the original conditions of approval and retains the original features of the project.

Malaysia's readiness to conclude investment guarantee agreements is a testimony of the government's desire to increase the confidence of foreign investors in Malaysia.

Malaysia has concluded investment guarantee agreements with 16 countries namely the United States of America, the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, the Republic of France, Switzerland, Sweden and Belgium/Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, Romania, Norway, Austria, Finland, the Netherlands, Italy and Kuwait.

An investment guarantee agreement will provide the foreign investor with the following: Protection against nationalisation and expropriation;

prompt and adequate compensation in the event of nationalisation or expropriation; free transfer of profits or capital and other fees; settlement of investment disputes under the Convention on Settlement of Investment Disputes, of which Malaysia has been a member since 1963. Malaysia grants foreign investments both national treatment and most-favoured nation treatment.

Corporate income tax rate is reduced to 35 per cent from 40 per cent with effect from year of assessment 1989.

Development tax is to be abolished gradually starting with a reduction of one per cent from year of assessment 1990.

Accelerated Depreciation Allowance (ADA) will no longer be available for capital expenditure incurred after Dec 31, 1988. The expenditure will only qualify for the normal capital allowances.

A company granted the investment allowance may be given an allowance of up to 100 per cent in respect of qualifying capital expenditure incurred within five years from the date of approval of the project.

and tourism sectors are contained in the Promotion of Investments Act, 1986 and the Income Tax Act, 1967. These incentives are designed to grant relief from taxes in various forms. Companies given pioneer status incentive are exempted from the payment of these taxes. In the case of the other incentives, the benefits are in the form of allowances given.

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In line with the government's objective to promote the growth of exports of manufactured goods, Malaysia's central bank, Bank Negara, has implemented an Export Credit Refinancing (ECR) scheme which provides Malaysian exporters with short-term credit at preferential rates of interest to enable them to compete more effectively in international markets. The main features of the facilities are as follows:

- The credit is extended by commercial banks to exporters of goods manufactured in Malaysia. The maximum period of refinancing, for all eligible products for pre-shipment is four months, and for post-shipment is six months.

- Eligibility of goods for refinancing under the ECR scheme is determined through a "negative list" concept, whereby products not listed in the negative list will be eligible for refinancing under the pre-shipment and post-shipment refinancing schemes provided they satisfy the 20 per cent value-added and 30 per cent local content criteria.

Opec's new pact aims to shave output

## Price will steadily go up, says Nazer

LONDON, Dec 10, (Reuter): Opec's latest pact to curb output and support oil prices seemed flawed, but a cold snap in Europe and North America suddenly has the petroleum market looking again.

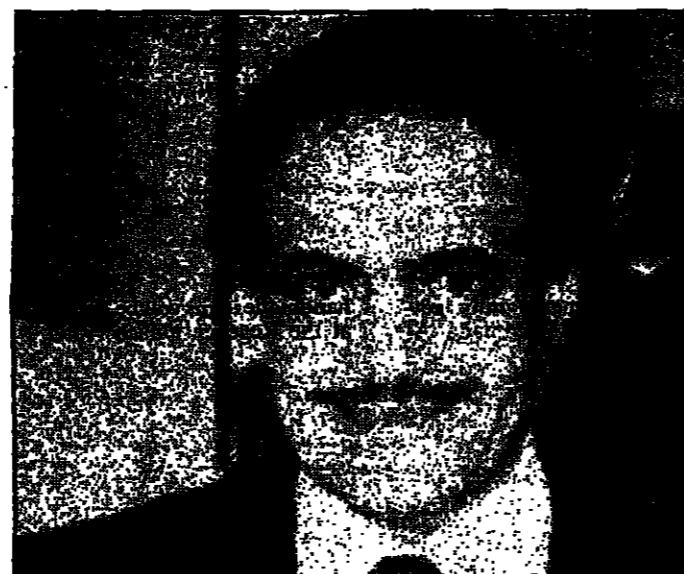
The icy weather after a mild autumn is keeping prices well above Opec's \$18-a-barrel target. The big unknown is how far an expected fall in Soviet exports may push oil prices higher again.

"I think the price will steadily go up after the market ascertains the durability of this agreement," said Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer. He was commenting on Opec's new output quota pact which was agreed in Vienna in late November and takes effect on Jan 1.

The pact aims to shave output for the seasonal market weak spot between the northern hemisphere winter and the usual summer surge in petrol demand.

The possible Gulf output cuts theoretically add up to at least 850,000 barrels daily of Opec output, estimated by the International Energy Agency at around 23.3 million in November.

The IEA on Dec 5 put Saudi output at about 5.6 million bpd, implying a cut in January of about 200,000 to its new quota of



Hisham Nazer  
5.4 million.

The Saudis meanwhile have trimmed 10 cents a barrel off their prices to the United States, industry sources say.

Industry executives in the Gulf meanwhile doubt if the UAE can avoid damage to its oil reservoirs if it keeps output at around 2.3 million bpd — the IEA estimate for it in November.

They think a cut of about 300,000 bpd, despite buyers'

preference for its light crudes over the above the sour, sulphurous types offered by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Japanese oil company officials said on Dec 6 they expect the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (Adnoc) to cut spot sales.

But even if Opec gets daily output down to the implied level around 22.5 million barrels — or, says Nazer, 22 million — it may still be production too much, say

several analysts.

The analysts noted particu-

larly that December excess supply will take time to reach markets. Steve Turner with London stockbrokers Smith New Court said the Vienna pact "is a very weak Opec agreement that will result in oversupply..."

If that turns out to be so, Opec leaders reply, talks on March 15 of their market monitoring committee to "produce" new cuts. Turner agreed but said "there will be no easy options."

Opec, however, believes various imponderables may help it out such as cold weather on the demand side and, so far as supply is concerned, Soviet and North Sea disruptions.

"Variations in winter weather could raise or lower the demand for Opec crude by half a million BPD," said Mehdi Varzi, analyst with a London finance house.

On the North Sea, Opec will have been cheered by news on Dec 5 that Shell, Esso, and Exxon/Shell venture, is delaying restart of output on its Brent Charlie and Cormorant Alpha platforms to between mid-February and the end of March.

The two can pump 140,000 barrels daily. Brent Charlie was shut for maintenance in May and Cormorant Alpha was hit by a gas blowout on April 18.

The two blocks last year signed a framework for economic co-operation through which they hope to streamline co-operation to take into consideration GCC demands.

Echoing ideas expressed along the Gulf, Hamdan said there was concern about the impact of the planned 1992 single European market. He did not elaborate but there is wariness of protectionist trade and financial policies when the single market evolves.

Already, these countries have been lured by EEC tariffs on petrochemical imports from the Gulf.

But Harve Jouanjean from EEC headquarters, stressed that the unified European market was not directed against any external party, and that the EEC put into consideration the interests of other countries.

Charles Caporaso, head of the EEC Arab and Middle East committee affairs, advised the GCC states to form a single Gulf customs union and abolish all customs duties as a means of confronting the single European market.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE formed the GCC in 1981 to push economic co-operation between member states emulating the EEC pattern.

The GCC countries are major oil suppliers of West Europe, and a primary market for European imports.

## UAE to supply oil, gas well beyond next century

### Strategy to maintain stable prices

ABU DHABI, Dec 10, (Opecna): Despite its small size, the United Arab Emirates is one of the world's major oil producers, with vast oil and gas reserves that supply the world market well beyond the next century.

Beneath the land surface and offshore, are more than 200 billion barrels of high-quality crudes, some 120 billion barrels of which, it is believed, can be produced using currently known methods of oil recovery. The country's gas reserves are estimated at over 1.5 trillion cu ft.

Opec annual statistical bulletin showed UAE's proven oil and natural gas reserves standing for 1988 at 9.1 billion barrels and 5.6 trillion standard cu ft.

The country's oil history goes back to the 1930s, when the London-based Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC), grouping BP, Shell, Total, Esso, Mobile and the Gulbenkian family, first displayed an interest in the southern Gulf region. Abu Dhabi's first concession agreement was signed with an IPC subsidiary in January 1939. The same shareholders still own a 40 per cent interest in the Abu Dhabi

industry, whose employment rose to 2.64 million people in 1988 from 1.97 million in 1980.

In that period, the US electronics industry's world-wide revenues rose to \$400 billion from \$190 billion, according to the American Electronics Association.

IBM chairman John Akers said the industry had grown for 25 years at about 15 per cent, three to four times growth in the overall economy. He predicted seven per cent to 10 per cent world-wide growth in the longer term.

Analysts cited slowing high technology growth, heated competition, and a sluggish economy as the culprits for the industry's current woes.

Some industry experts now agree that other computer concerns will likely scrutinise their operations for ways to raise earnings. Many computer concerns posted weaker earnings or losses in the last quarter.

They said the problems are likely to lead to continued changes in the US electronics

industry, whose employment rose to 2.64 million people in 1988 from 1.97 million in 1980.

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As the industry matures, computers are becoming more powerful and less costly at a rapid clip.

The computer industry grew up in a somewhat utopian environment at the peak of America's boom times," said Dan Lacey, a consultant at Lacey and Co. "It is

now learning that economics applies to everybody including computer companies."

IBM, which has been hurt by product delays and rising competition, said it would trim its US work force to 206,000 by the end of 1990.

It said the cuts, its third major effort to reduce staff in four years, will be made by restricting hiring and raising attrition at nearly every IBM location in the United States.

The company said it would take a \$2.3 billion pre-tax charge against fourth-quarter earnings. The charge, one of the biggest in history, will cover one-time costs associated with the job reductions and other cost-cutting measures. The charge will also cut IBM's after-tax fourth-quarter earnings by \$2.25 a share.

## SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWARCH PORT AS ON 10/12/89			
R.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
08	Sham	ISA	2441560
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWARCH PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
10/12	Himeisha Maru	Aigh Barwil	4842988
11/12	Real Trapper</td		

'Crisis point'

## Defence industry to undergo reshaping

ST LOUIS, Dec 10, (AP): The big thaw in US-Soviet relations means new vulnerability for the American defence industry, long used to fat budgets and hefty Defense Department orders.

As Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika policies have reduced military tensions, American popular support for big defence budgets has fallen. The entire role of what is commonly called the military-industrial complex is becoming as unstable as the crumbling Berlin Wall.

Last month, US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney made headlines world-wide with talk of drastic budget cuts at the Defense Department, perhaps \$10 billion through 1994.

"I think everyone would agree that this was a fun industry to be in, maybe in the 1970s, but now it's really a tough place to be," said Thomas McNaughan, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a Washington-based research group.

As world politics are redefined in the 1990s, there is no doubt the US defence industry will undergo a drastic reshaping. What's unclear is how severe the consolidation will be and who will survive.

"We're reaching a crisis point right now," said William van Cleve, director of the Centre for Defense and Strategic Studies at southwest Missouri State University.

"Because of the great uncertainty, companies are unable to do proper planning and invest in research and development. It's just barely, barely viable now to come up with new projects."

Many investors already have concluded defence companies will suffer because of the East-West stand-down. They're funneling money into other businesses.

As a group, defence company stocks are at a 15-year low in relative price-earning ratios compared to the broader market. Stock prices for the largest defence contractors, such as St. Louis-based McDonnell Douglas and fellow giants General Dynamics, Lockheed and Raytheon, have hit 52-week lows.

Although the industry has expected for some time that demand for new weapons and equipment would drop, the past few months have highlighted the shaky future for makers of jet fighters, tanks and even combat boots.

"It's like knowing that someone is going to turn the shower on. It's not until the cold water finally hits you that you start thinking about how unpleasant it is," said Paul Nisbett, an Aerospace stock analyst at Prudential-Bache Securities Inc. in New York.

But he thinks stock prices have fallen purely on the shift of psychology.

"I think the prices are ridiculously low. Now's the time to buy," he said.

The defence industry is accustomed to ups and downs, enjoying booms in war and suffering lean times in peace. But that pattern changed because of former President Ronald Reagan's unprecedented, peacetime military buildup this decade.

For instance, at General Dynamics' plane-building plant in Fort Worth, Texas, employment went from 28,000 in 1968, at the height of the Vietnam war, to 7,100 in 1972. Today, employment at the plant, which builds F-16 fighters for the Air Force, is at 31,500.

With the threat of war diminishing everyday, the defence industry knows the fat years under Reagan and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger are gone, but the readjustment is bound to be painful.

The biggest sufferers likely will be regions that depend heavily on jobs created by sophisticated multi-billion-dollar defence procurement orders, such as parts of the states of Missouri, Massachusetts, California and New York.

At McDonnell Douglas, officials said they are taking a "wait-and-see" attitude. But Cassel Williams, president of the company's largest union, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, finds that response alarming.

"I want to go to Washington. I'll talk to whoever I have to because this could become a major catastrophe before you know it," he said. "We hear this stuff on TV, read it in the newspaper every day and we think about our jobs."

One possible alternative for the defence industry is to diversify into other products. But the history of weapons makers manufacturing peacetime goods has been dismal.

in the manufacturing sector, the Federal Reserve Board reported Wednesday.

Most of the Fed's 12 regional banks described economic activity as "stable to modestly expanding" in their areas, according to the Central Bank's periodic beige book overview of regional economies across the country.

A drag on the economy, however, is sales of domestically built cars, which skidded 11.5 per cent in November from year-ago levels.

The 5.4 per cent unemployment rate was the highest since January when it also was 5.4 per cent and was identical to the rate in November 1988.

Meanwhile, the nation's economy appeared to be chugging along with slight growth in late October and November despite growing weakness

during all of November declined 14.2 per cent from year-ago levels. Light

truck sales, which accounted for more than 39 per cent of all vehicle sales, declined 7 per cent.

Sales of imported cars were estimated at 209,000 units during November, down 12.2 per cent from the year before. Imported cars accounted for 30.6 per cent of the total US car market, vs 30 per cent in November 1988.

Weak defence bookings helped drive the overall level of new orders to the nation's factories down 0.2 per cent during October, the Commerce Department reported.

The \$23.9 billion in October orders, adjusted for seasonal factors, followed a revised 1.0 per cent decline in orders in September and underscored what generally has been a weakening manufacturing sector.

Housing became more affordable in October as mortgage rates stabilized and median home prices declined, the national association of Realtors said.

The association's housing affordability index, a total to track the purchasing power of home buyers, measured 106.1 in October, up from 103.5 the month before.

That means a family earning the national median income of \$33,365 in October had 106.1 per cent of the income needed to qualify for a conventional mortgage with a 20 per cent downpayment to purchase a home valued at \$92,100, the national median home price.

M. Danny Wall, the nation's top thrift regulator, resigned Monday "to remove the distractions" his agency has

faced after weeks of public criticism over his handling of a failed California savings and loan.

Wall, director of the office of thrift supervision, had been under fire for his handling of the failed Lincoln Savings and Loan Association of Irvine, California. Resolution of the Lincoln failure was expected to cost taxpayers more than \$2.5 billion.

In addition to his handling of Lincoln, Wall had faced criticism for his initially low estimates to Congress of the cost of the thrift crisis, which now is expected to cost the public more than \$160 billion.

In corporate news, Chevron Corp. reacted to Thursday's disclosure that Pennzoil Co. had acquired an 8.8 per cent stake in Chevron with a series of

steps it said were designed to benefit Chevron and its shareholders.

Chevron said it filed a lawsuit against Pennzoil, accusing Pennzoil of violating federal disclosure laws.

Three corporations announced job

cuts during the week.

International Business Machines Corp., feeling the effects of rigorous competition, said it was eliminating 10,000 jobs in the United States and taking a \$2.3 billion one-time charge in the last quarter of 1989 in order to save \$1 billion a year beginning in 1990.

Information company McGraw-Hill Inc. said it will lay off 1,000 workers and take a \$220 million pre-tax charge to fourth-quarter earnings as part of a restructuring designed to shore up performance.

## Gulf Bank weekly market review

### KD mostly firmer

#### Kuwait dinar

Based on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate was slightly firmer against the US dollar ending the week at 296.07 fils compared with its week before last closing of 296.56 fils. The KD was slightly higher against the pound sterling, ending the week at 146.10 fils compared with its week before last closing of 146.26 fils. The KD was lower against the DM ending the week at 167.47 fils compared with its week before last closing of 165.63 fils. The KD was lower against the SFR ending the week at 186.21 fils compared with its week before last closing of 186.11 fils, according to Gulf Bank weekly market review.

The KD was higher against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 432.22 fils compared with its week before last closing of 432.93 fils. The KD was higher against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market, short-term interbank offer rates traded relatively within a very narrow range over the week. One-month interbank rates continued to trade within the same previous week range of 8.56 per cent rate. Three-month interbank rates also traded at the same previous week range of 8.43 per cent-8.50 per cent rate. Rates for longer periods traded lower around 8.43 per cent-8.50 per cent range for both 6 and 12 months.

As for Treasury Bills, the CBK announced its new Treasury Bill issue No. (82) of KD125 million, with effective and maturity dates of Dec 13, 1989 and March 14, 1990 respectively.

#### World stock markets

Wall Street stock markets moved lower over last week, hurt by profit-taking following recent gains and by buyers' reluctance to take a decisive stand before knowing more about the health of the US economy and the likelihood of further interest rate declines. However, prices recovered later in the week on fresh signs of economic weakness. The US unemployment rate rose to 5.4 per cent in November, while manufacturing jobs declined by 27,000 jobs. The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2753 and closed lower at 2731, recording a loss of 17 points over the previous week's closing of 2749.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange continued to firm last week, aided by speculative gains in the property and building material sectors and by buying for the long three week account which begins on Monday. Although the market looks set to post further gains, the pace of growth in the FTSE index is expected to slow this week, which sees first dealing in UK water companies. The FTSE-100 index opened the week at 2303 and closed higher at 2359, recording a gain of 49 points over the previous week's closing at 2310.

#### US dollar

The dollar traded narrowly mixed for the most part of the week in quiet trading. The dollar's recent weakness is mainly owing to the slowdown of US manufacturing sector as well as end of year holidays.

US unemployment rate for the month of November rose to 5.4 per cent last month from 5.3 per cent the previous month. The non-farm payrolls rose 210,000 which is above forecasts of 147,000 however, manufacturing jobs fell twice the amount forecasted. The manufacturing sector has declined for then eighth straight month, led by a loss of auto-industry jobs. While the October non-farm payroll data was sharply revised down to 93,000 from 233,000. The revision, which amounted to 60 per cent from earlier reported figures raised tremendous questions among traders as whether economists' regarding the accuracy of the recently released November figures.

The Makati and Manila Stock Exchanges are scheduled to reopen tomorrow, after being closed for six trading days, and brokers are expecting a sharp decline in share prices.

The Central Bank has promised to lend money to brokers to cushion the impact of anticipated selling pressure.

The Central Bank is prepared to provide stockholders, through commercial banks, whatever liquidity may be required as the market resumes operations." Bank Governor Jose Fernandez said in a statement on Saturday.

"We meet here to show our unity and to say that we all will try to get through the difficult time of economic recovery," Walesa said.

Geremek added: "It is the economy on which both the fate of the Polish democracy and the future of the Polish state depend."

The government on Friday unveiled details of its economic recovery plan which included a seven-fold increase in the price of oil.

The Solidarity-led government, which ended 40 years of communist rule in September, warned that its crash programme to transform Poland's command economy along Western lines could lead to a 20 per cent drop in living standards and a 12 per cent fall in industrial output.

It has pledged to cut spending, tighten tax discipline and limit pay increases to try to curb an inflation rate of almost 450 per cent.

The government on Friday also imposed controls on the price of rice, canned milk, sugar, chicken, pork, flour and liquefied petroleum gas. The Department of Trade and Industry urged people to inform the government on new telephone hotlines of any price violations.

The yen opened the week against the US dollar at 143.60/70 yen and closed lower at 144.20/30 compared to its week before last closing at 143.20/30 fils.

Earlier in the week, the pound weakened following news Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher won 314 out of an eligible 374 votes in the parliamentary party's annual leadership election. The results were not supportive for the pound's prospects. However, the pound recovered and held steady later in the week.

UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Major said last Monday British monetary policy would have to remain tight for a considerable period to get inflation down. Britain's gold and currency reserves fell a smaller than expected underlying \$31 million in November and compared with October's record \$2.2 billion drop. UK new consumer credit and final retail sales for October were neutral; and had no impact. New consumer credit was £3.70 billion in October after a £3.42 billion in September, while October retail sales were revised to a fall of 0.4 per cent from the provisional 0.7 per cent decline, following a 0.6 per cent rise in September.

The pound's movement is seen limited ahead of this week's slew of UK economic indicators which include Producer Prices, industrial production/O unemployment, current account and retail prices.

#### Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the US dollar at 143.60/70 yen and closed lower at 144.20/30 compared to its week before last closing at 143.20/30 fils.

Japan's Gross National Product (GNP) for the second quarter rose 2.9 per cent after a 0.8 per cent drop in the previous quarter, while Japan's annualized GNP rose a real 12.2 per cent in third quarter compared with a 3 per cent drop in second quarter. As for inflation, which is measured by the GNP deflator, this year-on-year inflation rate was 1.7 per cent in the third quarter compared to 1.8 per cent in the previous quarter. On the other hand, Japan's current account surplus is seen coming down steadily and is likely to fall much more significantly this fiscal year ending in March than in the last fiscal year. The forerunner previously announced current account surplus target for this fiscal year is £7.1 billion, equivalent to \$7.3 billion in 1988/89 and \$84.5 billion in 1987/88.

The yen is unlikely to trade out of its current trading range. Furthermore the possibility of the dollar's breaking under 143 yen or advancing above 145 is remote. Accordingly the yen is most likely to trade against the dollar around the 144 range.

#### Deutsche mark

The mark opened the week against the dollar at 1.7833/43 marks and closed the week higher at 1.7695/50 marks, compared to its week before last closing at 1.7645/55 marks.

The mark's strength continued to be fuelled by the number of unadjusted jobless figure rose to 1.95 million from 1.8738 million in October, but fell from 2.09 million figure of November last year.

The new November unemployment figure was the lowest since 1981.

#### Français franc

The French franc opened the week against the dollar at 6.0890/10 FFR and closed higher at 6.0465/85 FFR compared to its week before last closing at 6.1040/60 FFR. The franc's improved following news France posted a monthly trade surplus in September for the first time in a year of 2.20 billion FFR, turning round a deficit of 9.32 billion FFR in August. However, it is noted that September, coming after the August holiday month, often provides a strong trade performance.

#### Swiss franc

The Swiss franc opened the week against the dollar at 1.6060/65 FFR and closed higher at 1.5950/60 SFR, compared to its week before last closing at 1.6010/62 SFR. Rumours that the Swiss National Bank is poised to raise interest rates have dominated the market for most of last week, but the National Bank has declined to comment.

#### Precious metals

Earlier last week, a decline in gold prices on technology-induced selling a week, followed by the lead set by gold which was buoyed by short-covering and a rally in New York futures.

Gold bullion prices opened the week at \$406.25/406.75 and closed higher at \$411.50/412.40.

## Weak jobs data give stock market a partial lift

### Debate begins on Rafsanjani's plan

## 5-year plan to boost foreign investment

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Dec 10, (AP): Iran's parliament today began debating President Hashemi Rafsanjani's controversial five-year development plan which is aimed at loosening the state's stranglehold on the economy and encouraging foreign investment.

Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists, is believed to be seeking improved relations with the West to end Iran's isolation following the June 3 death of the revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Khomeini.

He is opposed by hardline radicals, who argue that his policies undermine the revolution's ideological purity.

Inflation, officially pegged at 28 per cent but believed to be considerably higher, is one of the major problems the five-year programme must tackle.

Rafsanjani said last week that

some \$50 billion, or eight times the country's annual budget, are locked up in unfinished projects which must be revived.

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Exports of oil currently account for more than 90 per cent of foreign exchange earnings.

Rafsanjani defended his programme as "realistic, not ambitious."

Private investment, privatisation of inefficient state industries, and limited foreign investment and technology must be encouraged, Rafsanjani stressed.

In a meeting last week with his 22-man cabinet and a number of parliamentary deputies, Rafsanjani defended his programme as "realistic, not ambitious."

## SPECIAL REPORT

# 'I stole my kids'

By Jadranka Porter

MIXED marriages are often considered more fragile than those where both partners come from the same background. The story of Jennifer (not her real name) seems to confirm that view. After her unhappy marriage crumbled, Jennifer, an American Catholic-turned-Muslim divorcee in her late 30s, stayed on in Kuwait to be near her two children who are being brought up by their Kuwaiti father and stepmother.

Jennifer has not fought to get custody because she feels she cannot provide for their needs. Although cultural differences affected her life in Kuwait, she refuses to lay all the blame for her unhappiness on cultural incompatibility. In a heart-rending story, which she admits may be coloured with some bias, she speaks frankly about the pain and frustration she suffered during her 15-year-long marriage, and the conflict within herself brought about by her move to Kuwait. She also urges Western girls, planning to marry an Arab, to learn more about the life and laws in the Middle East.

Last month when Jennifer, went for one of the regular weekly visits to her Kuwaiti daughter she was taken aback. The teen-age girl was wearing hijab, a headscarf prescribed by Islam for Muslim women.

Ruinage  
Although saddened, she did not discourage her daughter for fear of ruining their close and affectionate relationship. "I don't like her to be pushed into something which is opposite from what I feel. But at the same time I want her to feel good about herself," she told the Arab Times.

Jennifer says she knows of American women who would not be seen in public with their daughters who wear the hijab. But she is adamant: "I would never, never reject my child."

The episode with hijab is only one example which demonstrates cultural differences she has experienced ever since she married a Kuwaiti engineer in the mid-1970s.

Torn between Western and Arab cultures, her Catholic upbringing and Islam, she adopted religion, and fearing the thought of being a single parent, Jennifer was for years commuting between the US and Kuwait, separations and reunions.

In the process, she claims, she suffered physical abuse, humiliation, fear and frustration. But what kept her going was her children, a nine-year-old boy and a teen-age girl.

Having divorced her Kuwaiti husband several years ago she stayed on in Kuwait to be close to her children and in the hope that one day she will start a new life with them somewhere in the West.

But the years of strain, as she strove to cope with financial insecurity and to come to terms with her husband and his family, local laws and traditions, and with her own self, have taken their toll. Jennifer now admits that she is getting tired.

"I was very strong when I first got divorced. But I find the whole thing exhausting. I am barely making it with my salary here. One more lousy job and that's it. The more problems I have in this society, the more I feel drawn away from my children and tempted to leave," she says in despair.

Although she feels the Kuwaiti law is not on her side and her husband is not likely to relinquish his custody rights she still hopes to leave Kuwait with her children.

In fact, she once did. "I stole my children and left secretly for the US," she says, recalling one of many unhappy episodes in her

married life that did not end up the way she had planned.

Then, as now, she felt she could not support her children on her own. Although her mother helped her, the strain on her was more than she could bear and when Jennifer's husband came to the States her mother advised her to return to Kuwait.

For a long time Jennifer blamed her mother for a new bout of unhappiness that followed.

But today she knows that much of the responsibility for her sorry state lies with her.

She said her husband did not prepare her for what she was to face in Kuwait.

"When I got over here I found my family didn't like the way I dressed, the way I spoke, the fact that I was Western, that I wasn't a Muslim," she recalls.

Expected to undergo a total transformation from a modern Western woman to a submissive wife in a Muslim home, she found herself going to and fro between what she was told she should be and what she really was. Unable to cope successfully she felt she was failing both her husband and herself.

When he first hit her her ordeal doubled.

"I should have divorced him that very minute," she says. But she didn't. In fact this incident set a precedent for many more that were to follow.

Both were fully aware that Jennifer had no financial resources of her own, no family support in Kuwait, no friends to go to. This intimidated her into repeatedly trying to seek a new beginning and save the marriage, while her husband was going through spells of affection followed by physical abuse.

In Kuwait Jennifer could not fight him in court. "It simply wasn't a clean-cut case of wife battering. If he hit me once, I hit him three times," she says.

## Arrested

But when her husband pulled a knife on her, after an argument during their stay in the US, she had him arrested. Incidents like this inevitably led to a divorce which in itself was not easy to obtain due to her husband's reluctance.

She fought after arriving in Kuwait, that laws do not protect a woman the way they do in the US and that she could do little without her husband's consent.

She was well into the seventh month of pregnancy when she learnt about laws on custody of children.

Once her divorce came through, she was left without a home and her children. She had no pre-nuptial agreement which specifies the amount the wife is entitled to in case of divorce.

Although she wanted the Kuwaiti nationality her husband was against it and therefore she was not entitled to social benefits. There was no alimony and she had to get a job.

She is not fighting to get her children back because she feels that their father could give them a better home. "He has a PhD, he has a big house and social standing. I don't fear for the children's safety and that they would be physically neglected. He has the means and power to take care of them, so let him do it and let him do it well," says Jennifer. "I simply don't have the earning power my husband has."

Since her divorce Jennifer has had a lot of time to pore over her marriage.

Despite her bad experience, Jennifer has not entirely turned against the Arab culture or mixed marriages. But she feels that there should be much more information in the US about Arab customs, religion and family pressures instead of stories about wealthy Arabs.

# WHEN THE LOVING STOPS

## 'I love my son'

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff

IN July 1987, Sami's American wife Catherine told her husband she was going home with their one-year-old son for a two-month vacation.

As he waved them goodbye at Kuwait airport it never occurred to him that this was a final farewell to their life together. Catherine never came back despite repeated pleas from Sami, a 34-year-old Iraqi American.

Sami belongs to a group of men who believe they can be a better parent to their child than its own mother. Devastated by a sudden loss of his wife and son, and having failed to get them to return to him, he experienced the same grief and sense of deprivation as many wives abandoned by their husbands do. Indeed, the concern he shows for his son matches the feelings expressed by foreign mothers in Kuwait who do not have custody of their children. In trying to get their children back, he and they face the same task but a different set of difficulties.

He saw his family for the first time in two years seven months ago when he went to the States to attend a hearing in their divorce case his wife had filed without his knowledge.

He still cannot believe what happened to him. "I thought if we lasted eight years, we could last for ever," he says.

What hurts most is the loss of his son. Sami has vowed to go back to the States in a year or two and challenge his wife's custody rights.

"I love my son at least as much if not more than his mother. I think of him every day and I miss him. I used to change his nappies and bathe him," says Sami.

He has no doubt that he can bring up the child single-handedly and also take better care of him than his mother. "It is often her parents and neighbours who look after the child instead of her," he says.

says. He is equally confident that he will get custody of the child once he settles in the US. "There are no rules in this game. The stronger win. And I have plenty of energy. The judge told me to wait until I return to the States. She won because she was on her home ground," says Sami, without bitterness in his voice.

He doesn't know whether he would get back together with his wife. Rolling the film back he is trying to pinpoint the root cause of their break up.

"This would have not happened had she not gone home, where her parents persuaded her not to return to Kuwait. It would have not happened if we had not come to Kuwait which she disliked. And we would have not come here had I got a job, as I had planned, in Georgia, instead of succumbing to her pleas to go to Florida where her cousins live," he thinks aloud.

Despite difficulties especially in Kuwait, Sami believes they had a reasonably good marriage.

They started together as students in Virginia. After graduation Sami was under pressure to repay a student loan. For six months he unsuccessfully looked for a job in the US and was finally forced to take up an appointment in Kuwait where his family has lived for close to 20 years.

His wife joined him in 1986 despite alarming American newspaper reports about the Gulf war. But she never adapted to life in Kuwait. Unable to cope and protesting against the way of life in Kuwait, she refused to work or drive and clashed with Sami's family.

The birth of their son, contrary to Sami's expectations, did not make much difference.

Sami harbours no rancour against his wife. Even as he enumerates her shortcomings such as being immature, cool, spoilt, bossy and something of a crab he tempers his remarks with some self-criticism. "Although I tried to please her and give her a choice I wasn't 100 percent understanding," he says.

Heather's daughters, Aisha and Silvi, remain in North Yemen where her brother lives. Katya, who has visitation rights, insisted the girls be brought back. Desperate and frightened that she might never see them again she filed a case against her husband.

Katya caught the first glimpse of her daughters in court, nine months after they left Kuwait. The 12-year-old Amina was completely covered with only two sets of eyes on her veil. The younger Aisha wore a hijab. The girls did not speak to their mother. They told the court that they didn't want to live with her.

Although the court was to rule according to the law in South Yemen, the father's home country, which grants custody of daughters under the age of 15 to the mother, Katya lost that custody battle. The case is now before the Supreme Court.

Now she feels it is too late to repair whatever damage might have been done by ill-informed advice or inability to respond at legal proceedings she did not understand because they were in Arabic.

Ever since her husband threw her out of their home in April 1988, Katya's life has been an uphill struggle. In December 1988, without her knowledge, her husband took Amina and

have been repeatedly frustrated. "Each time I went to see them no one opened the door," she says. She saw her two older daughters last in August in Pahala, a prison town, where Katya had gone to seek police help. She was preceded from the prison again after the police station informed the court that her daughters do not want to see her. Katya's husband's new wife told her not to bother to call. When she went to the girls' school, the schoolmaster threatened to call the police. "I am sure that he (the father) tried to turn my daughters against me. He wants them to forget me."

Aisha told my youngest daughter, Silvi, in court that if women do not wear a hijab a man with a big knife will come after them," relates Katya.

Her husband filed a case against her for custody of Silvi. The case is being debated in the Appeals Court.

However, her husband has now obtained North Yemeni citizenship which does not give custody of children to non-Yemeni women. Katya says she was told at the North Yemeni embassy in Kuwait that "there is nothing for foreign women in our country even if they are Muslim."

Her attempts to exercise her visitation rights

# Nightmare never ends

Children are the biggest losers

(Continued from Page 1)

workers, judges, family, diplomats, psychologists and legislators have worked both in and outside Kuwait to help these parents find the least painful solution. Their efforts are often circumvented by a clash of cultures, religious traditions and different legal systems in the countries the parents come from.

As the last resort the disputing spouses seek a solution for their problems in courts.

But courts and laws do not help much in resolving the problems, claims a Kuwaiti lawyer Abdulla Rikayan.

"Too right," quips Barbara Mezo, who is fighting her Egyptian husband in Cairo courts for the custody of their two children after he kidnapped them from New York despite an American court order giving her custody.

Speaking for many non-Arab women distressed by the loss of their children due to different laws in their and their husband's countries she said bitterly: "He commits a crime and I pay the damages. Where is the justice?"

**Counter-balance**

This question is asked by other parents as well. In Kuwait some parents feel that rules should be more clearly defined to ensure a fair decision. They insist that whatever rights are due to women in an Islamic society should be given to them without fail; not only because they deserve them but also to counter-balance claims that men always enjoy a privileged position in a Muslim society.

Sami, who lost custody of his son in the US believes that those who have power have a better chance of winning a custody case. "There are no rules in this game. The stronger win," he claims.

"And it does help if you fight for your rights on your home ground," he says in a statement confirmed by practice.

"The courts are there only to help both sides conduct a normal life and children's well-being is the most important issue," Rikayan goes on.

But what is "normal" in the eyes of American and European laws may not be acceptable in Kuwait, and vice versa. Indeed American and European court orders have incensed some Kuwaiti parents and prompted them to act in breach of these laws. Similarly, some Western parents who are subjected to Kuwaiti laws believe they are being treated unfairly and some have acted in defiance of Kuwaiti court orders.

As one young Kuwaiti points out: "The laws of a country were made for the citizens of that country. It is not surprising that foreigners find them difficult to digest." Indeed, parental child abduction is known to be a problem among divorced Kuwaiti couples. But custody of children is the most contentious issue in divorce procedures concerning mixed couples.

**Negotiations**

While the American courts, for example, are likely to award custody to the mother, in Kuwait the children can be taken from their fathers. Said Jennifer, an American divorcee whose two children live with their Kuwaiti father and step-mother: "I am barely making it with my salary here. Their

father can give them a better life. He has a PhD, a big house and social standing. I simply don't have the earning power my husband has."

The incompatibility of Kuwaiti and American laws has sparked a series of abductions in both countries.

More than 30 cases of parental abduction involving Kuwaitis have been registered by the State Department in Washington. They have kidnapped their children from the US in violation of American court orders granting custody to the American mother.

The State Department is currently negotiating 12 such cases with the Kuwaiti government demanding the return of the abducted children who are American citizens.

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Since Kuwait, in common with other Arab states, has not signed the Hague Convention of the Civil Aspects of International Abduction the United States has no other means at its disposal but persuasion to ensure the return of abducted American children. A State Department spokesman said the countries whose laws are based on religious principles are the most difficult and emotionally sensitive areas for their negotiators.

The State Department's role in the Middle East is, therefore, often limited to locating the abducted child, working with local authorities to make sure the child's interests are attended to and helping US citizens obtain legal advice in a foreign country.

US Senator Alan Dixon from Illinois has led the efforts to punish international parental abduction. He has proposed a bill that, if passed, would fine the abductors and even jail them for a maximum of three years. The move is meant to fill the void in the United States federal law which does not consider parental abduction a crime.

**Clout**

Even if the bill is passed it will not put an end to parental abduction and there won't be any FBI agents in Kuwait chasing violators of American laws. The bill would mainly serve as a deterrent and would give the State Department more clout in dealing with foreign governments for the return of abducted children.

Other discrepancies between Kuwaiti and Western laws can be seen in provisions ruling the husband's responsibilities after the divorce. In Kuwait, the father is obliged to provide for his children even if they are in their mother's custody. But unlike in the West, the husband retains all the property acquired during the marriage and is obliged to pay alimony only for three months after the divorce.

Absence of alimony has forced divorced American women with no independent funds to forgo the right of custody.

Said Jennifer, an American divorcee whose two children live with their Kuwaiti father and step-mother: "I am barely making it with my salary here. Their

father can give them a better life. He has a PhD, a big house and social standing. I simply don't have the earning power my husband has."

But even though incompatible laws can aggravate a husband-wife dispute, they are by no means the only hurdle in search of a fair settlement.

Problems are many among couples where spouses come from countries with nearly identical laws and religious traditions. Such was the case in the early 1980s with Egyptian wives and their Kuwaiti husbands.

The rate of divorce among these couples was so rampant — in 1984, 756 Egyptian women divorced by Kuwaitis sought help at the Kuwaiti consulate in Cairo — that the Cabinet set up a special investigating committee which revealed that most of these marriages were between elderly married Kuwaiti men and young Egyptians of poor financial and educational background.

**Measures**

The Kuwaiti government resorted to a drastic measure. It mandated that any Kuwaiti planning to marry an Egyptian girl would have to obtain a clearance certificate. These were not issued to elderly Kuwaiti men or those who were already married.

If they got married outside Kuwait their marriage certificates were not recognised and they were precluded from bringing their brides to Kuwait. In addition, those who had divorced their Egyptian wives were compelled to pay child support and provide documents that would entitle their children to Kuwaiti nationality.

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# Renting men for fun, profit

## A good cause

**NEW YORK.** (Reuter): How can a woman go on all expenses-paid dream with an eligible bachelor of her choice, with no strings attached, all for a worthy cause?

Rent one for charity.

In recent years, various charities around the United States have been organising "bachelor bids" or "rent-a-gent" parties as part of their fund-raising efforts.

"They generally target single professional women who can afford to bid for a date with one of a group of carefully screened bachelors. Those who can't afford to bid or prefer not to can still go to the party and watch the action for a modest admission fee."

The bidding usually starts at about \$50. Most bachelors "sell" for between \$200 and \$600, but some have fetched \$1,500 for the charities. The bids, actually donations, are tax-deductible.

"It's a fun event, and in a lot of areas it works very well," said Phil Bonfiglio, national director of special events for the American Cancer Society.

"We hold 10 to 15 a year and usually raise about a half a million dollars," he said. "It's kind of like the women going to the places where the male strippers are. Those places are packed."

The women receive a programme providing a brief description of the bachelors and the date package being offered. The date is usually drinks, dinner and a show.

Bonfiglio said that although the bachelors pay for the dates, he assumes that their expenses are also tax-deductible.

"The women do seem to turn out," said Paul Faetz, director of special events for the Leukaemia Society. "And they have a lot of fun. These guys are parading on a runway like in a beauty contest. The shoe is on the other foot now."

More than 150 women attended a recent auction in New York to benefit the Cooley's Anaemia

### Foundation.

"I think women realise that the traditional ways of meeting men are out," said Joan Antoniello, who works with the foundation. "You have to do something new in the 1990s. You have to use your imagination. And I don't think any of these women feel threatened."

Most of the women at the Cooley's Anaemia auction said they participated for fun, as well as for the remote possibility of meeting someone.

"It's a kick. I just think it's fun," said one woman, who identified herself only as Dale.

Another woman had a more traditional point of view. "I don't pay for any man to take me out," said Susan Rogers. "I just came to watch."

The charities try to recruit established or prominent men to participate. "They are usually pretty stable people in the community—who have a lot to lose if they misbehave," said Faetz.

In order to safeguard against a potentially embarrassing situation, the foundations plant bidders in the audience.

"If no one bids on them, you've lost them," Faetz said the bachelors, adding that, fortunately, the plan didn't have to jump in very often.

Interestingly, none of the foundations holds auctions of women because the perception is that the public would not approve.

"I think people want to stay away from that because of the more of the time," said Faetz.

Bonfiglio added, "I don't know if the perception of bachelors auctions is even kosher (appropriate) — but auctioning women off definitely doesn't seem kosher."

According to Helene Daly Attanasio, a volunteer for Cooley's Anaemia, bachelor auctions are eminently appropriate.

"Women have been exploited for years. It's about time men were exploited," she said.



Circus charity gala

West German actor Guenther Strack lets a goatie jump through a ring as he plays his part in a circus charity gala in Munich. (Reuter wirephoto)

# Save Roman city call

## Threat of floods

**LEPTIS MAGNA.** Libya, (Reuters): Libya has launched an international appeal to protect Leptis Magna, a beautifully preserved and seldom visited Roman city on the Mediterranean coast, from the threat of floods.

Archaeologists plan a network of embankments to guard the ancient temples, markets and baths, as fine as anything outside Italy itself, after a nearby Wadi burst its banks in 1988 and 1987.

Tonnes of mud need to be cleared away from damaged areas and fallen columns put back in place in the impressive colonnaded street, which leads down to a stunning seventh century BC Phoenician harbour.

High prices, visa restrictions and its international image have kept Libya off the ordinary tourist map.

A visitor to Leptis Magna, which would be a tourist showpiece almost anywhere else, has the eerie experience of wandering among its columns almost alone.

Omar Ali Mahjoub, who runs the site for the antiquities department, said concrete embankments stretching 400 to 500 metres (yards) would be built along the Wadi Lebdia skirting the city to the east.

Earthworks that protected the city from flash floods in ancient times have worn away.

Ali Al Khadouri, head of the antiquities department, told Reuters that Libya would go ahead with its 30-million dollar preservation plan even if no cash arrived from abroad.

"With our budget it might take 20 years but it will be done," he said.

A triumphal arch built in 203 AD to mark a visit by Emperor Septimius Severus, who was born here, is already being restored.

The government has increased spending on antiquities. New museums have been built, including the lavish \$35 million Jamahin Museum in Tripoli's Red Fort.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), which in 1982 designated Leptis Magna a world heritage site, has responded to the appeal by sending some water pumps and two dump trucks — enough, in Libya's view.

A government decree last month eased restrictions on tourist visas. The move could bring in more visitors to join the diplomats and oil company workers who are now Libya's most frequent foreign admirers.

"Libya welcomes foreign visitors. We very much want them to come and see our heritage," Khadouri said.

Local schoolchildren shown around by guides are told that Leptis Magna is an Arab city, as its Phoenician founders were Arab.

Even if Leptis Magna is restored to its former glory, Libya will have a long way to go before it can compete with neighbours Tunisia and Egypt for tourists.

Because the dinar is so overvalued, a meal in a Tripoli restaurant costs more than \$20. Because of Islamic law, visitors cannot find a beer to wash it down with.

For those who miss the local bus, the 160-km (100-mile) taxi ride from Tripoli to Leptis Magna can cost 50 dinars. (\$70).

## Canadian centre uses hi-tech to steer ships clear of ice

# Tracking a different kind of adversary

**OTTAWA.** Dec 10, (AP): A huge map with coloured markers dominates one wall and banks of computers occupy another. The scene resembles a military headquarters, but the Canadian Ice Centre is tracking a different kind of adversary.

Modelled on a military operations centre, the government-funded centre bills itself as the world's most sophisticated monitor of icebergs and ice conditions that can endanger shipping. Its information goes to icebreakers, ships and other vessels trying

to navigate Canada's vast northern waterways.

The centre moved recently into new offices across from the national gallery of Canada in a renovated building.

In its operations room, markers on the map of Canada indicate the location of icebreakers, freighters and other vessels.

Satellite dishes and a short-wave radio antenna on the building's roof transmit directly to the far north, about 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometres) north.

The nerve-centre is a powerful

computer that receives and transmits the ceaseless flow of information about ice conditions, often up to 1,000 million bytes daily.

Compiling such information and sending it back to vessels once took 36 to 48 hours. Using computers, radars and satellite transmission, the task now takes about six hours.

The Soviet Union, the only other country with comparable northern territories, relies on very powerful icebreakers but has nothing compared to the technology accumulated in the

Canadian Ice Centre.

The US Coast Guard operates an international ice patrol to track the southern boundary of icebergs, from the grand banks off Newfoundland to the main trans-Atlantic shipping lines. It was formed after the Titanic sank in 1912 about 320 nautical miles southeast of Newfoundland.

Although the bulk of Canada's population lives in its southernmost areas, relatively unaffected by the harshest winter conditions, ice monitoring and forecasting can be crucial in the

far north.

Last September, David Pollock, chief of the ice forecast division, said the centre noticed that winds were blowing ice southward toward an oil refinery just north of Bathurst Island.

Three ships, including a pair of Canadian Coast Guard icebreakers, were docked at the refinery to refuel. The incoming ice threatened to trap them there.

The centre radiated the ships and urged them to head south earlier than planned.

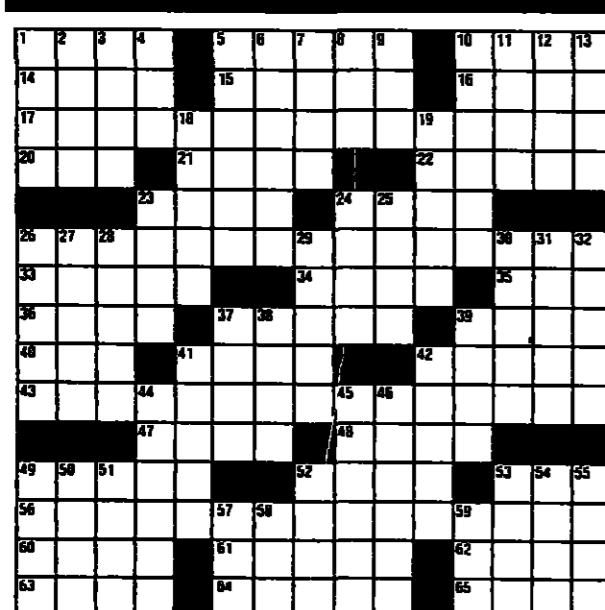
"They pulled out early with

half a load of fuel, rather than risk staying," he said. "We provided the information that helped them make the decision."

Between October and May, when shipping in the Arctic is often impossible, the centre concentrates on conditions in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the coast of Newfoundland, where shipping still can navigate with the support of tracking and icebreakers. It also monitors the Great Lakes.

In summer, the centre focuses on the Arctic shipping channels.

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**

- 1 Actor Rip
- 4 Formerly called
- 5 French valley
- 10 Winged victory
- 14 Flute's neighbor
- 15 Pillow filler
- 16 Saharan
- 17 Sport site
- 20 Former Spanish queen
- 21 Grimm beginning
- 22 "Swell!"
- 23 -- boy!"
- 24 Gait
- 25 Lillian Hellman play: 1941
- 33 Comhusker city
- 34 Rioja, e.g.
- 35 Zip
- 36 Upward slope
- 37 Book part
- 39 Gooden's goals
- 40 Concorde, for short
- 41 Ripping holder
- 42 Muddled
- 43 Bizet opera: 1863
- 47 Budget factor
- 48 Partaking
- 49 Show patience
- 52 Moreover
- 53 Acquire
- 56 Brief acting role for a star
- 60 Currier's partner
- 61 Rigid
- 62 Sunken fence
- 63 Bucky of baseball
- 64 Old hat
- 65 Jot

**DOWN**

- 1 --, or not..."
- 2 Scottish seaside resort
- 3 Dickens' Miss Dartie
- 4 Formerly called
- 5 French valley
- 6 Hurler Boyd
- 7 At liberty
- 8 Embarrassed
- 9 Lincoln's "Cap'n --"
- 10 Hall-of-Fame QB
- 11 Unyielding
- 12 Loving
- 13 MacDonald's co-star
- 14 Member of the clergy
- 15 Manicurists, at times
- 16 Wild
- 17 Bitter
- 18 Former S.A. official
- 19 Venerate
- 20 Long for
- 21 Reedy
- 22 Lacoste
- 23 Defeat
- 24 Menonite
- 25 Spavor
- 26 Activated
- 27 Salt peter
- 28 Marvinelli and Lanchester
- 29 Spin
- 30 Activated
- 31 Saltpeter
- 32 Martineau
- 33 Rioja, e.g.
- 34 Zip
- 35 Upward slope
- 36 Book part
- 37 Gooden's goals
- 38 Segment
- 39 Galba's successor
- 40 Tend
- 41 "The Maltese Falcon" star
- 42 Member of the clergy
- 43 Manicurists, at times
- 44 Iterate
- 45 Group
- 46 Orphan Annie's protectors
- 47 School org.
- 48 "Gotcha!"

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

♦ 8 ♠ K4 ♦ 96542 ♠ J9765

Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ J2 ♠ Q764 ♦ K932 ♠ A107

Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦ 87632 ♠ AKJ54 ♦ 8 ♦ 63

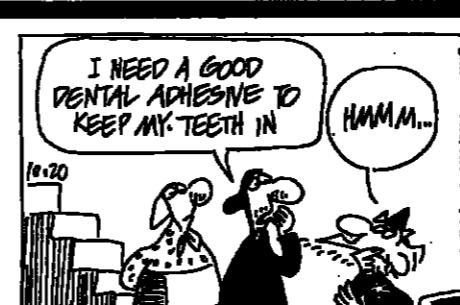
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦ A10 ♠ AKJ1052 ♦ 6 ♦ 974

## THE WIZARD OF ID

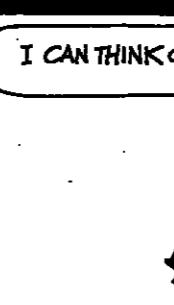
By Brian Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.



By Johnny Hart



## YOUR STARS

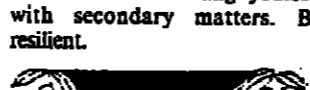


Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be more able to take the initiative and more self-reliant. Others will rally to you. You are however all too liable to run out of steam and will have to make a steadfast effort.



There is no time to lose, nor must you squander your energies. You will tend to be rather on the nervous side. Avoid concerning yourself with secondary matters. Be resilient.



Make sure you do not give your partner any cause for discontent. You will find it a little difficult to take the right decision, but you will do so. Keep an open mind towards change and towards new ideas.

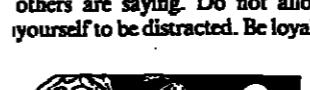


Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Do not think that because someone else is right you are automatically wrong. Nor should you always try to have the last word. Avoid allowing yourself to be misled. Be reliable.



You will be able to do something you have long wished to do. You should listen more closely to what others are saying. Do not allow yourself to be distracted. Be loyal.



You will be able to do something you have long wished to do. You should listen more closely to what others are saying. Do not allow yourself to be distracted. Be loyal.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

There are liable to be some tensions and you should do your best not to take things too personally. Something you had hoped would happen will not, at least not quite as you would have liked. Take fair better care of your health. Be on time.</



Howard Lew Lewis

Actor prefers to be thought of as a sophisticated boffin

# Howard Lewis admits he is a slob

HOWARD LEW LEWIS admits he is a slob — just like Elmo, the artless barman he plays in the TV sitcom *Brush Strokes*.

But the actor who is usually seen as idiot says he would rather be thought of as a sophisticated boffin.

Sandy-haired Howard — currently playing pudgy Rabies in another series, *Maid Marian and Her Merry Men* — lounged back in his chair and told me: "The best thing about my job is that often I don't have to get up in the mornings. I prefer to stay in bed or play on my computer."

The 48-year-old actor admitted: "Most of the time I don't mind playing dumb historical peasants. I wouldn't want to play Hamlet — he's just a screwed up kid."

"But sometimes acting as idiot all the time bothers me. I would rather be thought of as a saute, sophisticated intellectual!"

Affable Howard, who left his computer programming job 10 years ago to become an actor, has endeared himself to millions the world over as Elmo the barman.

"Elmo is an idiot but I don't think he's an offensive idiot," he said. "At first, when I read the script, it bothered me that he was sexist. But you can see after a while that he is always trying to chat women up and is patently dreadful at it. They always cut him to pieces."

Howard, who lives on his own in Mitcham, Surrey, admits that, unlike Elmo, he has a laid-back approach to most things in life.

"I never thought I'd be an actor. I just drifted into it because a lot of my friends were actors. The crunch with my job came when I was promoted to a managerial position in the computer company and I had to sack someone. She was a perfectly good worker and had tried really hard but my boss told me I had to do it."

"I was so apologetic that it ended with her trying to cheer me up!"

He believes that, when he started acting, everything fell into place really easily. "I didn't seem to put any effort into it at all," he said.

"My advice to a young person thinking of an acting career would be this: 'Get a proper job, you lazy slob!'"

Fans of *Brush Strokes* will be glad to hear that a new series is planned for the New Year. In the meantime, Howard is acting the idiot again in a new children's TV drama written by Tony Robinson (Baldric of *Blackadder* fame). Howard plays on of Maid Marian's Merry Men, the gullible and bemused Rabies, with Robinson himself as the Sheriff of Nottingham.

It is a dramatic contrast to one of Howard's first roles — in a political play. He told me: "It was about Chile, set in Chile, by a Chilean writer and I had to play a Chilean peasant. The only problem was that in the Western world, we don't know much about being a peasant, particularly a Chilean one."

But his natural sense of humour and his love of playing the fool soon surfaced in programmes including *The Two Bonnies*, *Open All Hours* and *Blackadder* with top comedian Rowan Atkinson.

Biting into a canape as we chatted at a London theatre, Howard told me: "The only good thing about my part in *Blackadder* was that I had to die in my soup."

On the subject of acting, he said: "You have to have a commitment to it — it is not all good fun. There is a lot of hanging about."

"People tend to think it is all about being a star. But stars don't set out to be stars. Most of them are just people who are quite good at their jobs and have arrived at stardom without really knowing it."

Howard, who went straight into the theatre without attending drama school, loves nothing better in his spare time than experimenting with his computer — apart from the occasional lie-in, of course.

"I just love computers. I am completely addicted to them. Mine plays a good game of Scrabble and I also use it for writing. Often I feel totally out of reality when I'm sitting at my computer — hours pass like minutes."

"When most actors are out of work, they look at the wall and go mad."

"But I don't like spending too much time on the computer. I think the whole point of life is to interact with human beings."

Bird-brained Elmo would never have the intelligence to be a computer buff. And blundering Rabies would find it difficult enough to distinguish between a hedgehog and a lavatory brush, let alone to play Scrabble on a computer.

Yet Howard admitted: "I really enjoyed playing Rabies and we had a fantastic time filming the series. When I watched it afterwards, it was like looking at holiday snaps."

"We had brilliant weather, too. But as I was dressed in a huge woollen outfit and sometimes wigs, I would have preferred a bit of vife, cold weather."

Howard has not always played hapless idiots. Once he starred in an East End version of *Romeo and Juliet* — but he did not play the dashing lover. He admits he is hardly a Romeo — and would not want to be.

Howard Lew Lewis may occasionally hanker after suave sophisticated but not for long.

## Princely help helps a lot

### Charles' youth business trust offers grant

ON PRINCE CHARLES' mantle-piece stands a clock. But this is no ordinary timepiece it is made of hundreds of matches and was presented to him by the former burglar who hand-crafted it.

Ex-prisoner Dean Benson, 26, started making matchstick models 6½ years ago when he was serving time for burglary.

Now he is in business, courtesy of a Prince's Youth Business Trust grant. His models include anything from clocks, windmills, bikes and chess pieces to one of St Paul's Cathedral.

Dean, based in Aston, Birmingham, has just got himself an office and is hoping to build up his business. Now famed matchmakers Bryant and May are going to buy the copyright of his ideas.

Dean told me: "No-one else would finance me but the Prince's Youth Business Trust money is a real incentive."

A 25-year-old former insurance underwriter is busy making dragon masks and dressing up in medieval costumes. He, too, set himself up in business with a Prince's Youth Business Trust grant of £750 and a loan of £2,000, which he has already paid back.

Mark Roberts told me: "It's good fun I really set it up for my friends. People call it escapism but it is an experience."

He was inspired by his hobby of playing Dungeons and Dragons, the fantasy role-playing game that has caught on with thousands of Britons.

The people who take part in the games he organises range from students to bankers. A weekend acting out medieval fantasies will cost £40 to non-members. Mark said: "Anyone who wants to forget about their problems can play, so long as they have a bit of imagination."

Wading around in the woods in doublet and chain mail is a far cry from what Julie McNealy gets up to with her grant money.

For Julie, 23, had a gut feeling to get into business — as a belly dancer!

She thought the Trust would think her request for a grant was a joke and was surprised to receive £1,000 a few months ago.

She has bought two Arabian-style costumes — which can cost up to £300 each — and plans to buy a car to get her to engagements.

Julie, who performs under the name Gelila, had been unemployed for three years. She heard about the Trust when she visited the job centre near her London home.

Now she dances the night away in upmarket clubs in the West End, as well as at private parties.

"It's a very good dance for your figure," she told me. "But I knew I could make a living from it. The summer was very busy and Christmas will be, too."

Julie performs four or five times a week and, as well as her fee, she can pick up about £1,000 in tips — a princely sum.

Less glamorous but still lucrative is the stick insect industry. Dorothy Floyd, 25, had been keeping the creatures for four years when she noticed there was a demand for them from schools.

She received a Trust grant in 1987 and now breeds thousands of the creepy-crawlies. She sells a package of her book, *How To Keep Stick Insects*, plus a special cage and 16 insects of different varieties for £50.

Dorothy told me: "They are very interesting to observe. You can watch them climbing out of their skins. You can mix different sorts together to make an attractive collection."

Young Lee Wast started Liver Cleaning Company by accident. Unemployed, he couldn't afford to go out on a Friday night. So when a woman asked him to clean the windows of her house, he agreed. He earned himself a tidy £30.

When he told his mother, she suggested the Prince's Youth Business Trust. Lee told me:

"I wasn't surprised when I got it because I did a lot of research and put a good plan together. Business is coming on slowly but surely. It's already profitable." Now he is hoping to employ people and to expand into office cleaning.

David and Mary Shaw desperately wanted to set themselves up in business with a transport cafe in a down-at-heels part of London.

Mary, 23, had always been in the catering profession and husband David, 27, was an unemployed milkman.

The couple wrote off to apply for a grant.

They attended interviews and submitted a business plan. They received their grant in December 1988, and finally, opened their cafe last August. They have the services of a business adviser for their first year.

Mary told me: "It's been better than we thought it would be. The first year is always up and down but it's been brilliant we're always busy."

Now the Shaws are hoping a very important visitor will drop in for a cuppa and bacon butty at their 32-seat cafe, Prince Charles, the man who made it all possible.

The sweet smell of success goes hand in hand with the sweet smell of croissants and apple tarts for Wayne Harrison and Simon Ledger — or so they hope. The lads have worked their way through the catering jungle but have decided to set up their own patisserie.

Simon told me: "We were fed up working for other people and we had heard that the Prince's Youth Business Trust were good at providing finance for young people."

Prince Charles

They are very easy to keep."

The grant and the loan will allow Dorothy to buy a van. She supplies insects to schools, pet shops and the public, all over the country.

Animals are close to the heart of Sarah Partridge, too. She was surprised to get her grant from the Trust to run a horse-drawn carriage service.

She hires out ponies and a carriage for weddings and parades, as well as giving pony rides at a stately home in Newport, Wales.

Sarah, 24, received her grant in 1983. In the beginning, she had to borrow a horse but she now owns several ponies and two vehicles.

She told me: "Business is ticking over nicely, thank you. I am booked every Saturday for months. The lowest fee is £150. It is a seasonal business. I was surprised to get the grant, even though I felt confident. No-one was going to stop me."

Young Lee Wast started Liver Cleaning Company by accident. Unemployed, he couldn't afford to go out on a Friday night. So when a woman asked him to clean the windows of her house, he agreed. He earned himself a tidy £30.

When he told his mother, she suggested the Prince's Youth Business Trust. Lee told me:

"I wasn't surprised when I got it because I did a lot of research and put a good plan together. Business is coming on slowly but surely. It's already profitable." Now he is hoping to employ people and to expand into office cleaning.

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For Wayne, it is a matter of life and death. He says: "I wanted to play the Birdman as soon as I read the script. I thought it was a very touching story and the Birdman is a sympathetic character."

He also thought it would be interesting to play a character whose only relationships are with children — because children have a wonderful innocence and honesty. And I wanted to visit the Scilly Isles because I had heard how beautiful they are."

The story may be set in 1914 but producer Geoffrey Wansell believes its theme is extremely important to life today. He says:

"When The Whales Came is based on a legend and we were attracted by what it has to say about nature — that we must treat it with some reverence — and what it has to say about outcasts, whom we tend to treat as mad instead of seeing the potential of wisdom in their unconventional views."

David switched to pop when he found himself out of work when the *Knight Rider* series came to a sudden halt because of "a row between the studio and the network over money." He made records for Europe and the fans went wild.

One disc, *Looking For Freedom*, has achieved platinum sales. The record, soon to be released in Britain under the title *Lonely Is The Night*, was No. 1 in West Germany for nine weeks. And another record, *Flying On The Wings Of Tenderness*, has gone gold.

David's up-beat numbers, sung in a Glen Campbell-like baritone, have climbed the charts everywhere from Spain, Italy



David Hasselhoff found fame in 'Knight Rider' with his trusty car Kit.

Actor visits orphanages, hospitals world over

## Knight Rider on mercy mission

SINCE hunky David Hasselhoff gave up talking to his *Knight Rider* wonder car, he has started singing pop songs. And their sales have hit a golden note.

And, as 28-year-old David sings his way round the world with his faithful car Kit, he makes every overseas trip a mission of mercy.

For off, in, blue-eyed David, to be seen in Britain as the star of a TV lifeguard series called *Baywatch* (L.W.T., Jan 6), spends every spare minute bringing joy to sick or lonely children.

He and motor-racing ace Mario Andretti have formed the *Race for Life Foundation*, so that chronically ill youngsters can have fun outings to race meetings. And David visits hospitals and orphanages all over the world.

David, whose *Knight Rider* series is still shown in more than 60 countries, told me: "Last weekend, for example, we brought 25 children into the Atlanta 500 in Georgia.

"We had a big party for them, with a band, pony rides and all sorts of games. The next day, we took them to the races to see the cars qualify and to meet the racing drivers."

"I find this work extremely rewarding. These kids have more guts than anybody I've ever met. And I am able to have an opportunity to be on this earth to accomplish something besides music, TV and me, me, me."

After that, they will go in to hear the rock 'n' roll. And this will be the first family rock show ever. I shall sing for everyone, from grandmas to us here."

For, whether he is singing or acting, children are never far from bachelor David's thoughts. His mission to help them began when he was playing the daredevil adventurer Michael Knight in the *Knight Rider* series.

David told me: "There was an incident when I was making *Knight Rider* that opened up everything and got me involved in all this. There is an organisation called the Starlight Foundation that grants wishes for chronically and terminally ill children."

"They sent a little boy to the *Knight Rider* set because his wish was to meet me. I gave him a *Knight Rider* hat and jacket. After the boy's visit, I stayed in constant communication with him and his family."

"Six months later, sadly, this little boy died. He had previously chosen to be buried in his *Knight*

Rider coat. This is what began it all for me."

"In just four years on *Knight Rider*, I saw 500 kids. Quite a few of these have since died. And I took the whole thing one step further when I started motor racing."

"Mario Andretti and I formed *Race For Life*. We bring children to the race tracks to meet Mario, Michael Andretti and Paul Newman. Sometimes they will, for example, spend a day at the Indy 500 in Indianapolis."

"Over five years, we have brought 500 kids to the Indy. Last year along there were 100 of them. Also, all the money raised by races and other events in the name of our charity goes to children through Starlight, the Make A Wish Foundation and the Children's Burn Foundation for Children."

David moved to the make-up trailer, settled into a seat, and went on: "Somebody once said, 'When you are blessed, it is your moral obligation to pass that on to somebody else.' That is also, basically, what my parents taught me."

"So, when I started travelling the world in my new singing career, I said, 'Hey! Wouldn't it be fun to go to a hospital in, say, Portugal? To see the kids' faces?' So I did, and the kids were so excited."

"I found the orphanages even sadder than the hospitals. You could see many of these children were just abandoned. They were



**SPORTS****Soccer****Robson's Cup hopes receive a jolt**

LONDON, Dec 10, (Reuters): Gary Lineker and Peter Beardsley reminded Bobby Robson that they can still score yesterday but the England manager had little else to cheer about.

While Beardsley's 64th minute goal saved Liverpool from sinking to their first home defeat against Aston Villa in 12 years, it was overshadowed by the sight of his England and club team-mate John Barnes leaving the field on a stretcher.

A key component in the front-line of Robson's World Cup plans, Barnes pulled up short and collapsed in the 36th minute after a lovely twisting run into the Villa penalty area.

Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish said Barnes had suffered the recurrence of a hamstring injury and would miss England's friendly against Yugoslavia at Wembley on Wednesday.

For Robson the news only added to the gloom of hearing that the much-fancied and feared Netherlands were drawn in the same group as England in next year's World Cup finals.

While Beardsley and Lineker, who have both failed to match up to expectations in recent matches, are important players in the squad, Barnes has a sparkle that few others possess.

And although he has rarely given the sort of performances at international level that he gives at Liverpool, his play against Italy last month showed glimpses of his brilliance.

To add to the despondency, England's reserve goalkeeper Dave Beasant let another four goals as Chelsea crashed to 4-2 to Queen's Park Rangers. Last week, he let in five against Wimbledon.

The result saw Chelsea fall from fourth place in the League to sixth, but at least gave Robson's England number two Don Howe his second win in two games as QPR coach.

**First**

Villa drew 1-1 with Liverpool after taking an early lead and looking set to break clear at the top of the League for the first time since they won the championship in 1981.

Liverpool, Arsenal and Villa had all been level on 30 points before yesterday, with champions Arsenal seemingly bogged down at Coventry where they had not won in four years.

In the event, Arsenal plucked a last-minute winner out of the sky to push both rivals down the table. Paul Merson was the sooner with an opportunist lob from the right wing.

Lineker, top scorer at the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico, hit home his 10th goal of the season as Tottenham beat his old club Everton 2-1 and said he was undaunted by the draw.

"I'm just interested in being part of it all and part of the side and I hope that things will go well for us," he said.

Howard Kendall, his former manager at Everton, is another man anxiously hoping that things go well as his new club Manchester City again failed to notch up their first away win of the season.

He watched bottom-of-the League City — his employers from Monday — take an early lead at Southampton and then throw three points away at losing 2-1.

City rivals Manchester United fared equally badly, forging ahead in the ninth minute and then losing by a similar margin to Crystal Palace, managed by former United Player Steve Coppell.

United manager Alex Ferguson left Welsh international Mark Hughes on the bench for the match in a bid to break a two-match drought of goals but left to chants of "Fergie out."

In Scotland, Rangers beat Motherwell 3-0. Ally McCoist's goal in 82nd minute made him the top scorer in Scottish Premier history with 128 goals.

Aberdeen beat Dundee United 2-0 and head Rangers on goal difference at the top. Both have 23 points, with Celtic third, three points behind.

**Athletics score first Little League win**

THE Athletics scored their first victory while Cardinals, Giants, Red Sox and White Sox were involved in ties during the Kuwait Little League action on Friday.

The Athletics were doing some great hitting. Abdul Wahab with his home run and triple earned 4 runs for his team. Team-mate Yousef Al Ghani also had a home run and a triple. Yousef earned 6 RBIs. Other Athletic hitters were Hala Khalaf with a double and Ahmed Najah with a double and 2 RBIs.

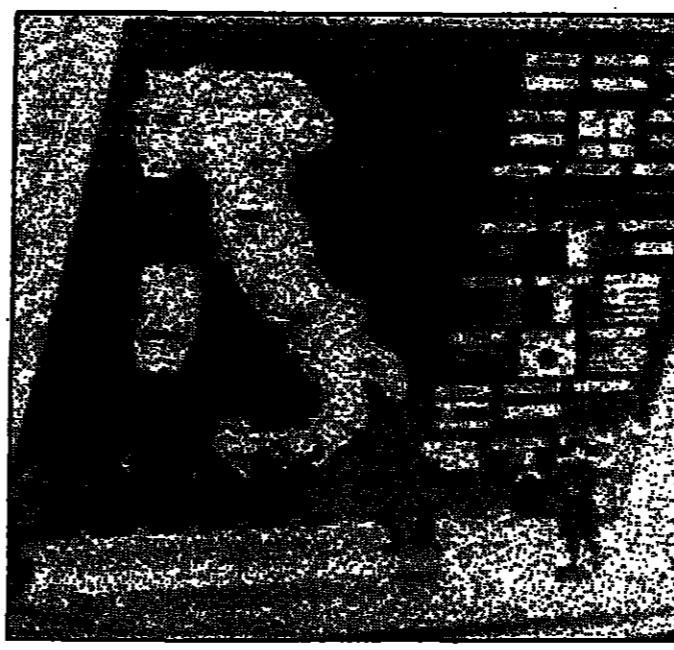
The Royals never let up. Hitlers C. Khan with two doubles and 4 RBIs, Nabeel Alexander with a double and 1 RBI, and Farrah Hawana with a double and 2 RBIs did their best, but the Athletics were just too strong. Final score Royals 13,

21.

The undefeated Giants tied with the Cardinals in a great baseball game. Both teams had some fantastic plays. The Cardinals started off strong with Talal Navarro's home run in the first inning



Fifa president Joao Havelange (right) hands the World Cup trophy to one of the organisers. (Reuter wirephoto)



World soccer stars and Fifa authorities stand in front of a giant map of Italy during the draw. (Reuter wirephoto)



Top soccer stars (left to right): Pele, Bobby Moore, Ruben Sosa, Bruno Conti and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge during the draw. (Reuter wirephoto)

can say we're satisfied but it could have been much worse. We shouldn't undervalue our two European opponents. Czechoslovakia have always been a difficult side for us.

**Socrates criticises new Brazil**

ROME, Dec 10, (Reuters): Brazil have lost touch with their soccer traditions and may even lose the loyalty of their colourful World Cup fans, former star Socrates has warned.

Socrates, a leading player in the Brazilian teams at the 1982 and 1986 finals, believes current coach Sebastiao Lazaroni's European-style tactics will prevent the familiar Brazilian skills from blossoming fully in Italy next June.

"There is not enough pure fantasy in the team. There has been a change in style and the players have learned a lot of new tactics from playing abroad," Socrates said after yesterday's draw for next year's World Cup finals.

"I do not like it much myself and I am sure most Brazilians will feel the same. Our football is about freedom and imagination within a tactical framework but this new system is too rigid."

For years, Brazil have been synonymous with "the beautiful game," and their samba skills have lit up virtually all the World Cup tournaments since their first triumph in Sweden in 1958.

**Senior takes 3rd straight title**

MELBOURNE, Dec 10, (Reuters): Queenslander Peter Senior notched his third Australian major in four weeks today and took his biggest ever pay cheque, winning Australia's richest golf tournament, the \$75,000 Australian Classic.

Senior won by five shots from world number one Greg Norman who finished at seven under par. Norman shot the best round of the day with a 67. Senior carded 65-72-70-69 to finish with a 72 hole 276.

Senior said he hoped the Midas touch that has helped him win the Australian PGA, last week's Australian Open and today's event continues.

"I've had a terrific four to five weeks and I hope it keeps going," Senior said.

"I had the feeling everyone was behind me this week and it's made my job a lot easier."

Norman said Senior's brilliant form should launch him into world prominence and help him gain a ticket on the American circuit.

"If he can shoot those scores around here then he can shoot any score on the golf courses in America because they're nowhere near as tough," Norman said.

Twice in the past, in West Germany in 1974 and in Argentina in 1978, the Brazilians attempted to switch to more defensive tactics and both tournaments ended with their reputation tarnished.

"It was the re-emergence of their more familiar, imaginative, attacking style and under veteran coach Tele Santana in Spain in 1982, when Socrates and Zico starred, which brought back their prestige."

"For me, that Brazilian team in 1982 was the best I have played in and also produced the best matches," said Socrates. "The game with Italy, when we lost 3-2, was the best of my career and will always be remembered by everyone who was there."

"It was a fantasy game for us all and we shall never forget it. That is how I feel Brazil should be seen."

"Football is above all a show so, from that point of view, when you have a spectacular match, it is fine."

"But at the same time it is important also to be respectful of style and quality and from this point of view I think I am not alone in not

too rigid."

For years, Brazil have been synonymous with "the beautiful game," and their samba skills have lit up virtually all the World Cup tournaments since their first triumph in Sweden in 1958.

In Socrates's view, Brazil's fortunes will depend heavily on how much freedom their talented forward players like Bebeto, Romario, Geovanni and Careca are allowed.

"Bebeto will be the star player possibly of the tournament if he has the chance," said Socrates. "He is very talented and very imaginative. But he may not be allowed to play with the fantasy he has in his feet in the present team and tactics."

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## SPORTS

## S. Australian wicketkeeper sets world record

MELBOURNE, Australia, Dec 10. (Reuter): South Australian wicketkeeper Darren Berry has set a world record in first-class cricket by not conceding a bye while 2,133 runs were scored against his team.

Berry established the mark on his 20th

birthday today during the third day of the four-day Sheffield Shield match against Victoria.

Former England wicketkeeper Keith Andrew set the previous record by not conceding a bye in the course of 2,132 runs being scored against his county Northam-

ptonshire in 1965.

Berry, who made his first-class debut for South Australia on November 3, said he was unable of his impending feat until an Adelaide reporter told him he had broken the Australian record during a recent match against New Zealand and was

within sight of the world record. "I wasn't too worried about it," Berry said. "I had an idea Victoria needed around 230 or 240 but I didn't know it had happened until (South Australia captain) David Hookes came up to me and said 'well done.'

## Pakistan restrict India to 324

Imran claims 350th Test wicket



Imran: 5th player in Test history to take 350 wickets

### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### French soccer

PARIS, Dec 10. (Reuter): French First Division soccer results today.

Metz	3	Marseille	2
Montpellier	2	St Germain	0
Toulon	2	Mulhouse	0
Nice	1	Lyon	0
Lille	1	Cannes	1
Toulouse	1	Auxerre	1
Racing Paris	2	Nantes	1
Caen	2	Brest	1
Sochaux	3	Bordeaux	0

Played on Saturday:  
St-Etienne 0 Monaco 2

#### Italian soccer

ROME, Dec 10. (Reuter): Results of Italian First Division matches played today.

Ascoli	0	Lazio	0
Atalanta	1	Udinese	0
Bari	1	Napoli	1
Bologna	2	Lecce	1
Verona	1	Florentina	0
Inter	1	Genoa	1
Juventus	1	Cesena	1
Roma	3	Cremonese	1
Sampdoria	1	AC Milan	1

#### Frost triumphs

SUN CITY, South Africa, Dec 10. (Reuter): David Frost of South Africa won the richest prize in golf today when he captured the \$1 million winner's cheque in the Sun City Challenge.

#### Tomba hurt

VAL D'ISERE, France, Dec 10. (AP): Italian skiing star Alberto Tomba broke his collarbone in a fall in today's Super Giant Slalom race and will be out of competition at least three weeks, his business manager said.

#### Henning wins

VAL D'ISERE, France, Dec 10. (AP): Sweden's Niklas Henning scored a surprising victory today in the first Super Giant Slalom race of the men's World Cup season.

#### GCC race

KUWAIT, Dec 10. (Kuna): Kuwait university is to organise tomorrow the second GCC cross country race, in which GCC university students will take part.

#### YRC tourney

THE Youth Recreation Centre (YRC) Football Tournament, organised for KIFF affiliated clubs, will begin on Friday, Dec 22. The last date for entries is Dec 15 before 10.00 am. The draw will be held at 10.00 am on Dec 15 at the Caravan Restaurant, Salihia. For further information contact Patrick. Tel 4712303.

#### BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Hubara Bridge Club game held at the Hubara Centre on Saturday:

- N/S
- 1. Nabil Akel & Narendra Shah
- Sharing second: Saad Suleiman & John and Shanti & John
- E/W
- 1. Salman Ali & George
- 2. Aurora & Kamil
- 3. Lollo Murthwaite & Dora Materny

Results of Sheraton Bridge Club marathon game played on Friday:

- 1. Rita & El Bar
- 2. Abdess & Jagger
- 3. Nabil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite

Results of the SAS Bridge Club game played on Sunday:

- 1. Mrs R. El-Kassim & Mrs N. Arabi
- 2. Mrs R. Abbott & Mrs N. Arabi
- 3. Mrs R. Ayad & Mrs B. Michael

## Jahra overcome Kazma

JAHRA continued to prove that they are the surprise team of this season's Kuwait Football League when they beat Kazma 1-0 yesterday to remain on top of the First Division. They are unbeaten in all the five games they have played so far.

In earlier matches, Jahra trounced Qadsiya 2-1, Al-Arabi 1-0, Yarmouk 2-0 and Kazma 1-0 in a row to collect 9 points of the maximum 10. Jahra was promoted to the First Division only last year. They are having the leadership of the First Division for the first time in their history.

In another match played yesterday, Al-Kuwait survived an all

out onslaught by Qadsiya but came out winners after an own goal by Qadsiya, who were only themselves to blame because of the number of easy chances they missed throughout the match. They pressed hard throughout the match and in the second half intensified their attacks in an attempt to score the equaliser.

The only goal came in the 43rd minute of the first half, when Qadsiya 15-year-old player, Ahmad Theyab tried to send the ball back to his goalkeeper but the ball went over his head and straight into the net.

Two matches were played on Saturday. Al-Naser beat Salimiya

1-0 and Yarmouk trounced Al-Arabi 2-0. Salimiya finished their fifth game of the League without scoring a single goal and they conceded one goal to Al-Naser. It was the second consecutive defeat for Al-Arabi, the defending champions by two lowly teams.

At the end of the fifth week of the League, Jahra is still at the top of the table with 9 points. Kuwait in second place with 7 points. The remaining six teams have four points each but Qadsiya and Kazma are third on goal difference. Salimiya, fifth. Yarmouk sixth, Al-Arabi seventh and Al-Naser last.

Tang received \$6,250 in prize money and Han \$400.

Han led in the first set until Tang caught up at 7-7. Tang went ahead 9-7, Han caught up at 9-9, and Tang finally won 12-11.

The second set was also a thriller, with plenty of smashes and rallies.

In the mixed doubles final, Indonesia's Eddy Hartono and Verawaty Fajrin defeated Thomas Lund and Pernille Dupont of Denmark 12-15, 15-7, 15-6 in 49 minutes.

The Indonesians received \$2,312 each and the Danes \$2,062 each.

Verawaty, clutching a giant-sized check, said, "this is the last major tournament for this year and it is good to go home with the victory."

## Tang upsets Han for crown

SINGAPORE, Dec 10. (AP): Tang Juihong upset fellow Chinese Han Aiping, the world's top-ranked woman player, 12-11, 12-10 today in the women's singles final of the World Grand Prix Badminton Championship.

"It was age against youth," said the 26-year-old Han, who added that this was her last major tournament before she retires as a player early next year.

The 20-year-old Tang said, "I am happy to have won. I went all out to win. I don't know what happened to her."

Han, wiping sweat from her face after the 28-minute match, said, "I am growing old. That is why I want to stop. It would have been great to have won and retired, but I just could not do it and she was faster."

Tang received \$6,250 in prize money and Han \$400.

Han led in the first set until Tang caught up at 7-7. Tang went ahead 9-7, Han caught up at 9-9, and Tang finally won 12-11.

The second set was also a thriller, with plenty of smashes and rallies.

In the mixed doubles final, Indonesia's Eddy Hartono and Verawaty Fajrin defeated Thomas Lund and Pernille Dupont of Denmark 12-15, 15-7, 15-6 in 49 minutes.

The Indonesians received \$2,312 each and the Danes \$2,062 each.

Verawaty, clutching a giant-sized check, said,

"this is the last major tournament for this year and it is good to go home with the victory."

## Ewing helps Knicks score easy win over Celtics



Ewing: came on strong in the third quarter

breaking 13-0 run at the start of the third quarter, as the Atlanta Hawks posted their sixth straight win, defeating the Minnesota Timberwolves 104-91.

The expansion Timberwolves led 55-49 before Atlanta scored the last six points before half-

time. After the streak beginning the third quarter gave Atlanta a 68-55 lead, Minnesota never got closer than 10 points the rest of the way.

Minnesota's Tony Campbell was ejected from the game for a flagrant foul.

Doug West led the Timberwolves with 23 points.

Nuggets 106, Hornets 93

Alex English scored 25 points and the surging Denver Nuggets limited Charlotte to three field goals in the fourth quarter for a 106-93 victory, handing the Hor-

## Lankans frustrate Aussies

BRISBANE, Australia, Dec 10, (Reuter): Sri Lanka painstakingly reached their highest score in three cricket Tests against Australia today, adding 194 in six hours to end the third day of the first Test on 275 for six.

Arvinda de Silva anchored Sri Lanka with an unbeaten 75 but their progress in reply to Australia's first innings of 367 was at times painful to watch.

Australia's pace attack was low on luck and ideas on a hot day that started with only 50 runs being scored in the first session as the Sri Lanka batsmen, guilty of throwing their wickets away in pre-Test tour matches, concentrated on reaching the follow-on target of 168.

But the arrival of captain Arjuna Ranatunga at the fall of the fourth wicket injected spice into the game. Ranatunga and De Silva added 53 to take their side past the follow-on mark before Ranatunga was lbw to a bouncer from Merv Hughes for 25.

De Silva, who escaped just before lunch when Hughes dropped a simple catch and bowled a chance, carried on the attack following Ranatunga's dismissal, hooking Carl Rackemann into the crowd for six.

Rackemann's dismissal of Athula Samarasekera, well caught down low in the gully by Tom Moody for 18, put De Silva back on the defensive and he took an hour to move from 60 to 70.

Shortly before the close Sri Lanka passed their previous best against Australia, 271 in Kandy six years ago. The previous two Tests have ended in innings victories for Australia.

Australia's four-man pace attack, with medium-pacer Moody playing a secondary role, was again found lacking following its disappointing absence of penetration in New Zealand's second innings during the draw Test last month in Perth.

They frequently beat the bat but did not consistently trouble any of the Sri Lankans. Captain Athula Samarasekera and partner Carl Rackemann into the crowd for six.

The American pair, who beat South Africans Peter Aldrich and Danie Visser 6-4-6-3 in their semifinal, have dropped only one set all week at the \$277,500 championships at the Royal Albert Hall.

John McEnroe won the Masters doubles seven times with Peter Fleming. But one title that has always eluded him is the French Open doubles, a crown which Patrick won with Grabb in June.

Aldrich and Visser took a 3-0 lead after Grabb dropped his service in the second game. But the American pair won the next five games and never allowed the South Africans to take control again as they finished the match in 97 minutes.

In today's final Grabb and McEnroe were to face Wimbledon champions Anders Jarryd of Sweden and John Fitzgerald of Australia who, like the Americans, were unbeaten in the round robin stage of the tournament.

The second round appeared even as Ozaki skilfully avoided the champion's punches, but ran into trouble again in the third.

The referee stopped the fight briefly about 20 seconds before the end of the round after the challenger began bleeding heavily above his right eye following a flurry of left-right combinations.

Breland came out firing on all cylinders at the start of the fourth, and after a barrage of punches crushed into the suffering Japanese the referee stopped the fight.

Breland improved his professional record to 26 wins, 18 by knockout, against one loss and one draw.



Arvinda de Silva

arm costing 15 runs.

Australia were frustrated for 163 minutes by nightwatchman Asoka de Silva before he threw his wicket away trying to hit Terry Alderman out of the ground. Asoka de Silva was fourth man out for 22 shortly after lunch.

De Silva, who escaped just before lunch when Hughes dropped a simple catch and bowled a chance, carried on the attack following Ranatunga's dismissal, hooking Carl Rackemann into the crowd for six.

Rackemann has taken two for 59 overs while Rackemann, who had Asanka Gurusinghe caught behind for 43 before lunch, has collected two for 51 off 70.

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